The epic journey of vengeful *ronin*, Ogami Itto and and his infant son, Daigoro continues in this stunning volume! A female *yakuza* leader and her band attempt to smuggle Lone Wolf and Cub all the way to Edo, but sometimes affairs of the heart don't belong in the criminal underworld. Only blood will result. Meanwhile, the Yagyu clan, hot on the trail of the assassin and his son, have called in Japan's most deadly bounty hunters, and offer an astounding reward — the hunters become the hunted. Can the Lone Wolf trust anyone around him, when the lure of wealth tempts even seemingly harmless peasant folk? And with Daigoro feverish and near death's door, can Lone Wolf and Cub make it through a winter gale to safety? This man is seemingly unstoppable, and only the love for his son can distract him from the grim path before him.

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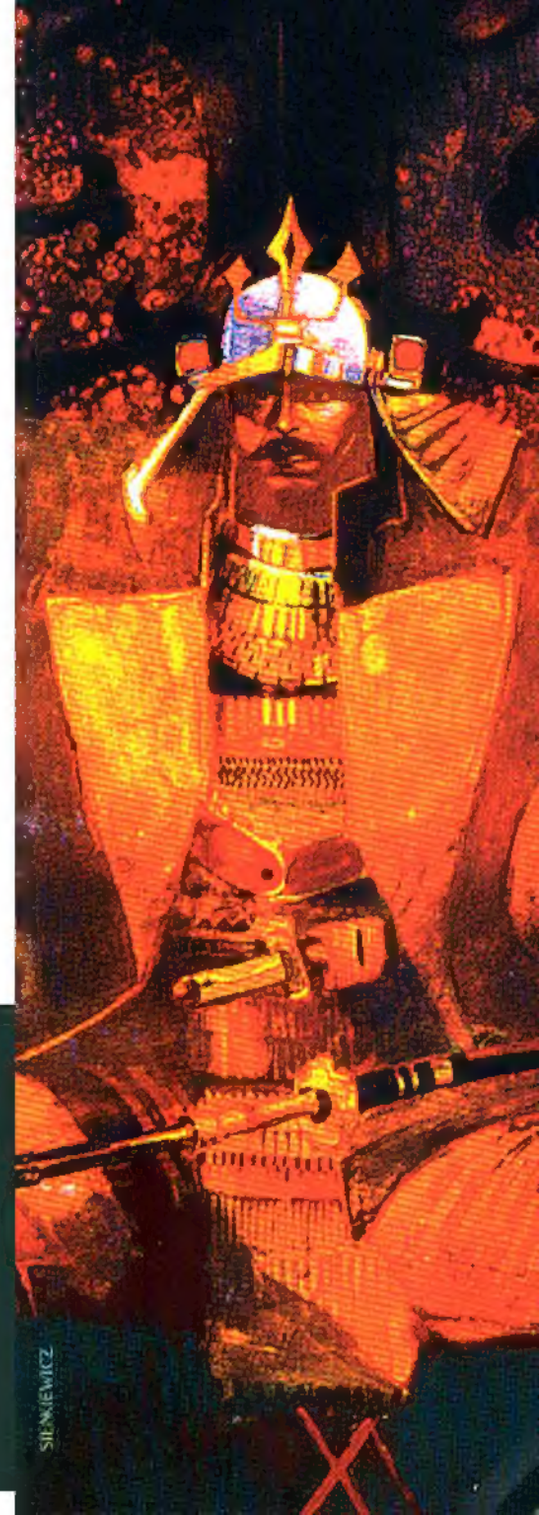
LONE WOLF AND CUB

KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

LONE WOLF AND CUB



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BILL SIENKIEWICZ

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VOLUME 17

DARK HORSE COMICS

VOLUME 17

THE WILL OF THE FANG

By KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

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DANA LEWIS

lettering & retouch
DIGITAL CHAMELEON

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THE WILL OF THE FANG

子連れ狼

By KAZUO KOIKE
& GOSEKI KOJIMA

VOLUME

17

A NOTE TO READERS

Lone Wolf and Cub is famous for its carefully researched re-creation of Edo-Period Japan. To preserve the flavor of the work, we have chosen to retain many Edo-Period terms that have no direct equivalents in English. Japanese is written in a mix of Chinese ideograms and a syllabic writing system, resulting in numerous synonyms. In the glossary, you may encounter words with multiple meanings. These are words written with Chinese ideograms that are pronounced the same but carry different meanings. A Japanese reader seeing the different ideograms would know instantly which meaning it is, but these synonyms can cause confusion when Japanese is spelled out in our alphabet. *O-yurushi o* (please forgive us)!

LONE WOLF AND CUB

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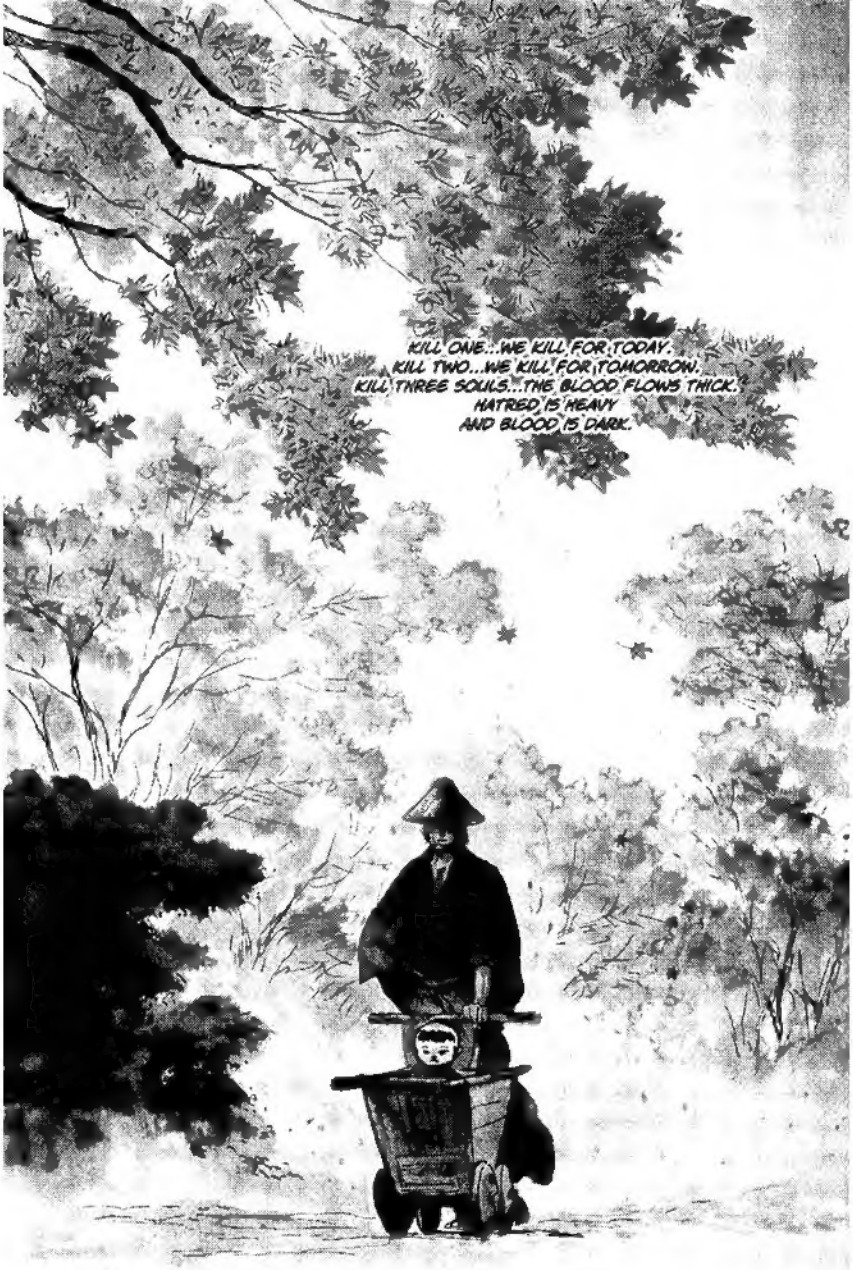
the eighty-third

To a Tomorrow That Never Comes

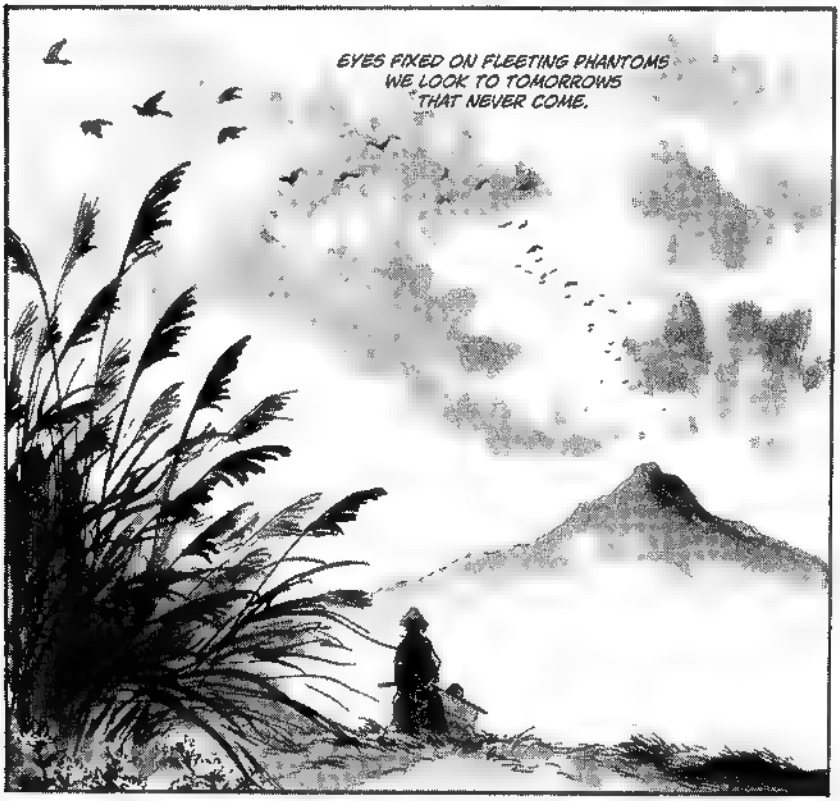

KILL ONE...WE KILL FOR TODAY.
KILL TWO...WE KILL FOR TOMORROW.
KILL THREE SOULS...THE BLOOD FLOWS THICK.
HATRED IS HEAVY
AND BLOOD IS DARK.

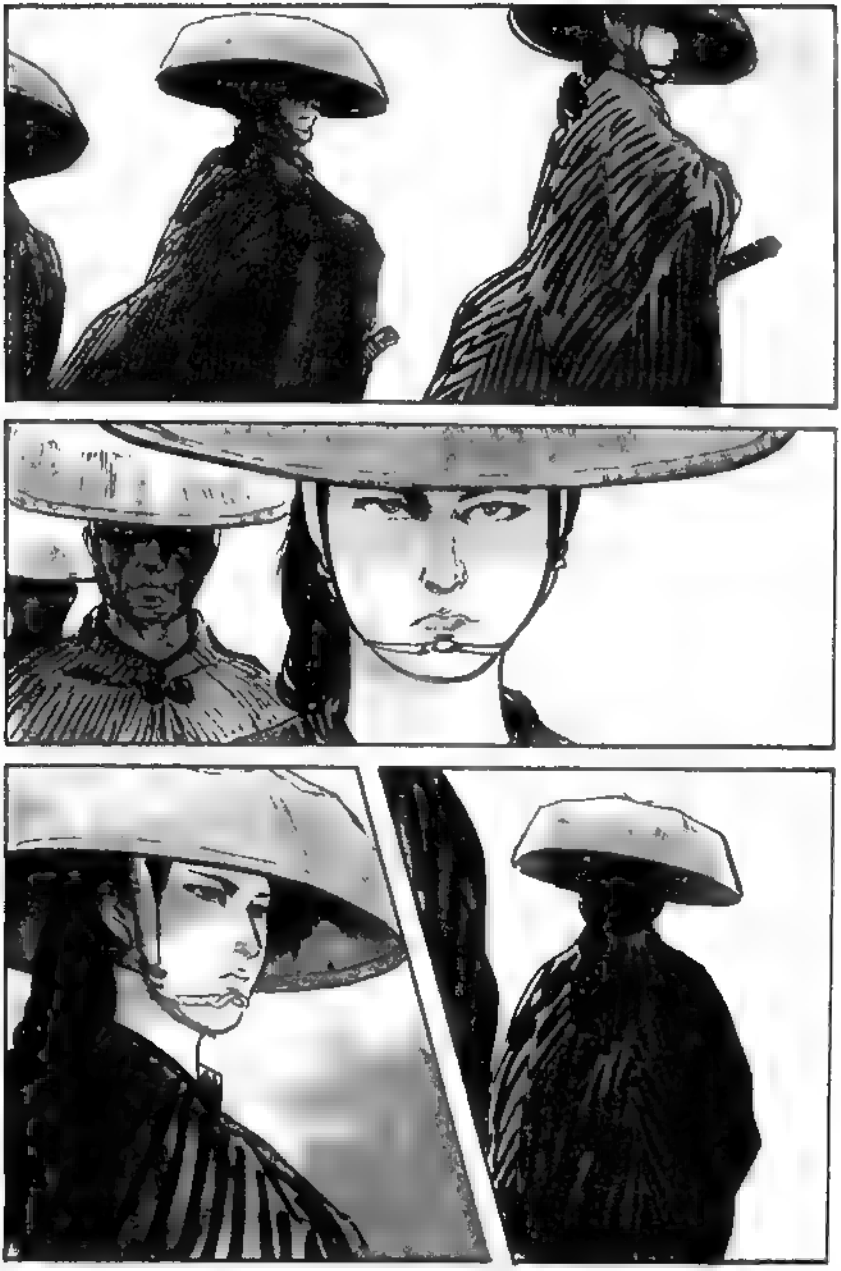
THOUGH TEARS CAN BE HIDDEN
ALL HEARTS BREAK.

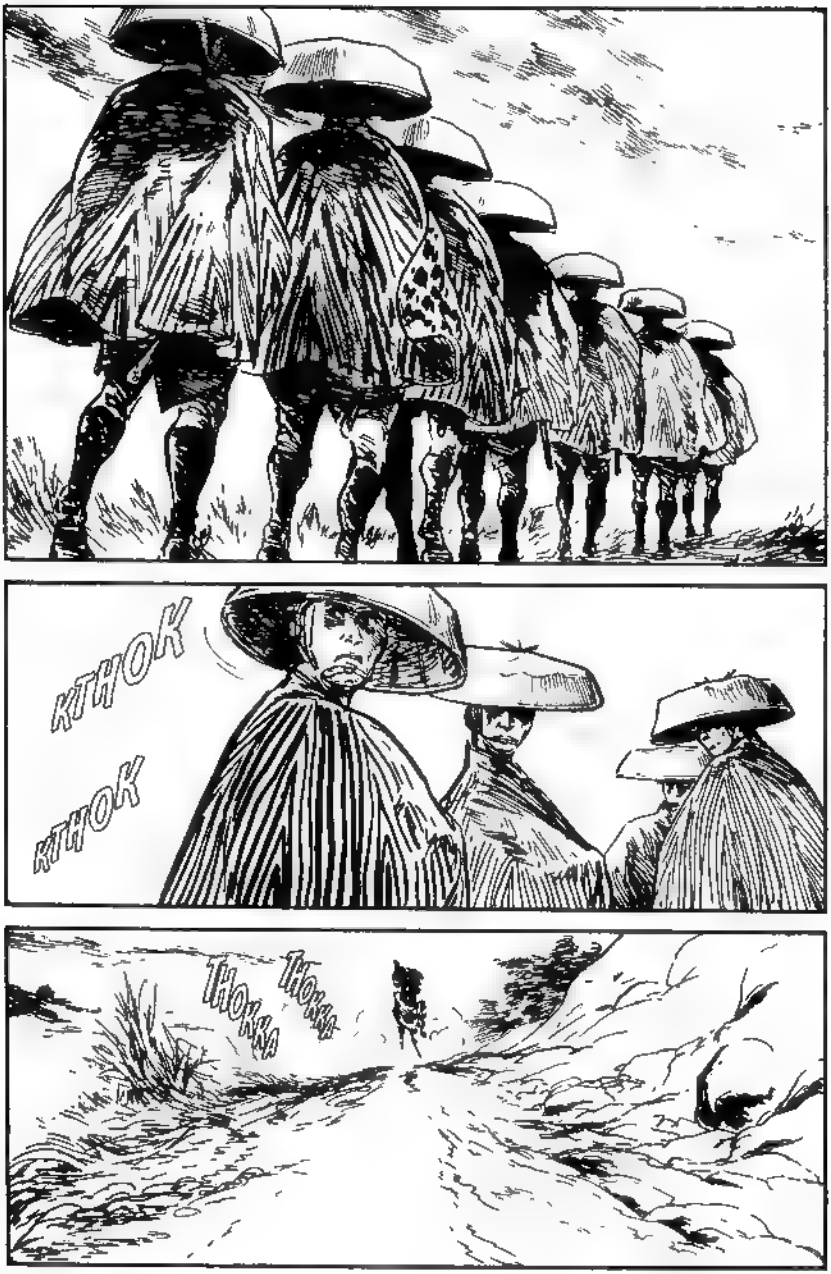
STARLIGHT SEEPS INTO THE BONE
BLOOD RUNS DRY IN FROZEN HEARTS
AND NIGHT DESCENDS
ON TANGLED FIELDS.
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA
GARA

GARA
GARA
GARA
A HOMELESS JOURNEY
BEYOND DARK FATE.

LAMENT OF WILDFLOWERS
MOAN OF WIND
BLOOMING IN SHADOW
HELL'S SWEET BLOSSOMS.


EYES FIXED ON FLEETING PHANTOMS
WE LOOK TO TOMORROWS
THAT NEVER COME.




KTHOK
KTHOK
THOK
THOK

HOKKATA
KTHOKK
KTHOKK

THOKKA
BRRHH!
KTHOKK

NNG
AH. HUFF
I BEG
M-MESSAGE. FROM ONAHAMA DAIKANSHO.
TO KOMORI TATSUNOSUKE, OFFICER. MAOKA DAIKANSHO
EVERY SECOND PRECIOUS. H-HELP ME!
TELL US!
THE CRIMINAL. LONE WOLF AND CUB. OGAMI ITTŌ, SON DAIGORO. IN MAOKA.

TRIED TO ARREST HIM. MANY OF US
BUT DREADFUL SKILL. DEADLY ZANBATŌ ALL SLAUGHTERED
LONE WOLF HEADS FOR ONAHAMA.
TH-THEY MUST PREPARE! IMMEDIATELY T-TO SEIZE HIM.

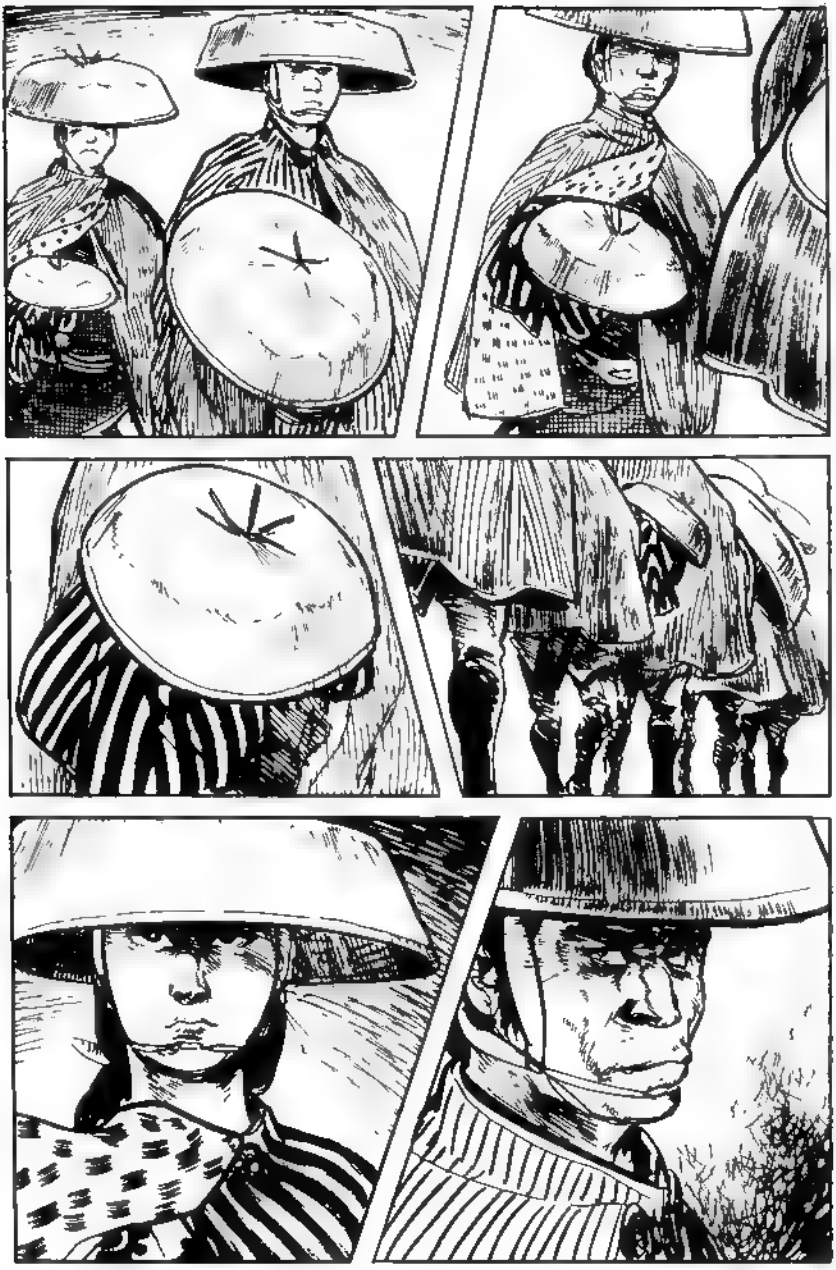
拝一刀
大五郎
右之者
御公儀手配
一兒人ニシテ
捕縛スル者ニ
金五十枚
OGAMI ITTO AND SON DAIGORO WANTED FOR CAPITAL OFFENSES FOR DEATH OR CAPTURE, FIFTY RYŌ
ICHI! MATSU!
YES, MA'AM!
BURY THIS O-SAMURAI WITH ALL RESPECT
THERE'S A GRAVEYARD AHEAD AT CHŌHEI TEMPLE.
MA'AM!

BUT MOTOJIME SHOULDN'T WE GET 'IM TO THE DAIKANSHO? WARN 'EM LIKE HE SAID?
NO. THIS IS A STRANGE DESTINY
AFTER YOU BURY HIM, SCARE UP SOME TRAVEL GEAR TWO SETS.
EXACTLY LIKE OURS, GET IT?
ONE'S FOR A THREE-YEAR-OLD

MUST BE... ABOUT SO HIGH.
BEEN A YEAR AND THREE MONTHS. SO THAT'S MY BEST GUESS.
HAT, CAPE. THE WORKS
BOSS, THIS AIN'T RIGHT.
THE LAW'S LOOKIN' FOR THIS LONE WOLF AND CUB GUY HELP HIM OR HIDE HIM, AND THEY'LL SKIN US ALIVE!
BESIDES. WE'RE BETRAYING THIS SAMURAI'S DYING WISH.
IWA!

PIETY, RESPECT, LOYALTY, HONESTY, DUTY, PEACE, MODESTY, SHAME!
WE BŌHACHI SCOFF AT THEM! "BETRAYAL"...?! FUCK BETRAYAL!
WE BETRAY THE VERY WORLD BY LIVING! THEY ALL CURSE US FOR RUNNING THE BROTHELS, THE GAMBLING HOUSES!
BUT...BUT MOTOJIME! WHY HELP THIS GUY? WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?
SCREW UP, AND OUR LIVES—
KRAK
/WA/ IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE I PULLED YOU OFF THE STREET, SO I'LL LET YOU OFF—JUST THIS ONCE!
BUT GIVE KIOROSHI-NO-TORIZŌ LIP EVER AGAIN, AND YOUR LIFE WON'T BE WORTH SHIT!

IF I SEE A WHITE HORSE AND SAY IT'S BLACK— THAT HORSE IS GODDAMN BLACK!
THAT'S THE BŌHACHI CODE! DON'T FORGET IT!
Y-YES, MA'AM.
I'M SORRY, BOSS.
NOW GET MOVING!
YES, MA'AM!
BOYS! WE'RE HEADING BACK!
MA'AM!



MOTOJIME TURNING BACK DON'T MEAN WE'LL FIND HIM.
HE MIGHT TAKE SOME SIDE ROAD, MAYBE FOLLOW THE RIDGE LINE THROUGH THE HILLS, SKIP ONAHAMA.
. . . .
. . . .
THEY GOT POSTERS UP EVERYWHERE. HE HAS BOUNTY [redacted] ON HIS ASS.
MAYBE HE HOLES UP AT NIGHT, GOD KNOWS WHERE.

THIS MAN DOESN'T RUN, IWA. HE GOES SMACK DOWN THE MAIN HIGHWAY.
IF THERE'S A RIVER IN HIS WAY, HE CROSSES IT A MOUNTAIN? HE CLIMBS IT EVEN KNOWING HE'LL BE AMBUSHED, EVEN KNOWING THE LAW'S ON HIM...

THAT'S JUST WHO HE IS.

STILL... IF HE'S HUNG UP HIS SANDALS FOR THE NIGHT, HOW CAN WE—
I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA WHERE.

HE SAID... ....
HE SPOKE OF MEIFUMADŌ.. THE SIX WAYS AND THE FOUR LIVES...

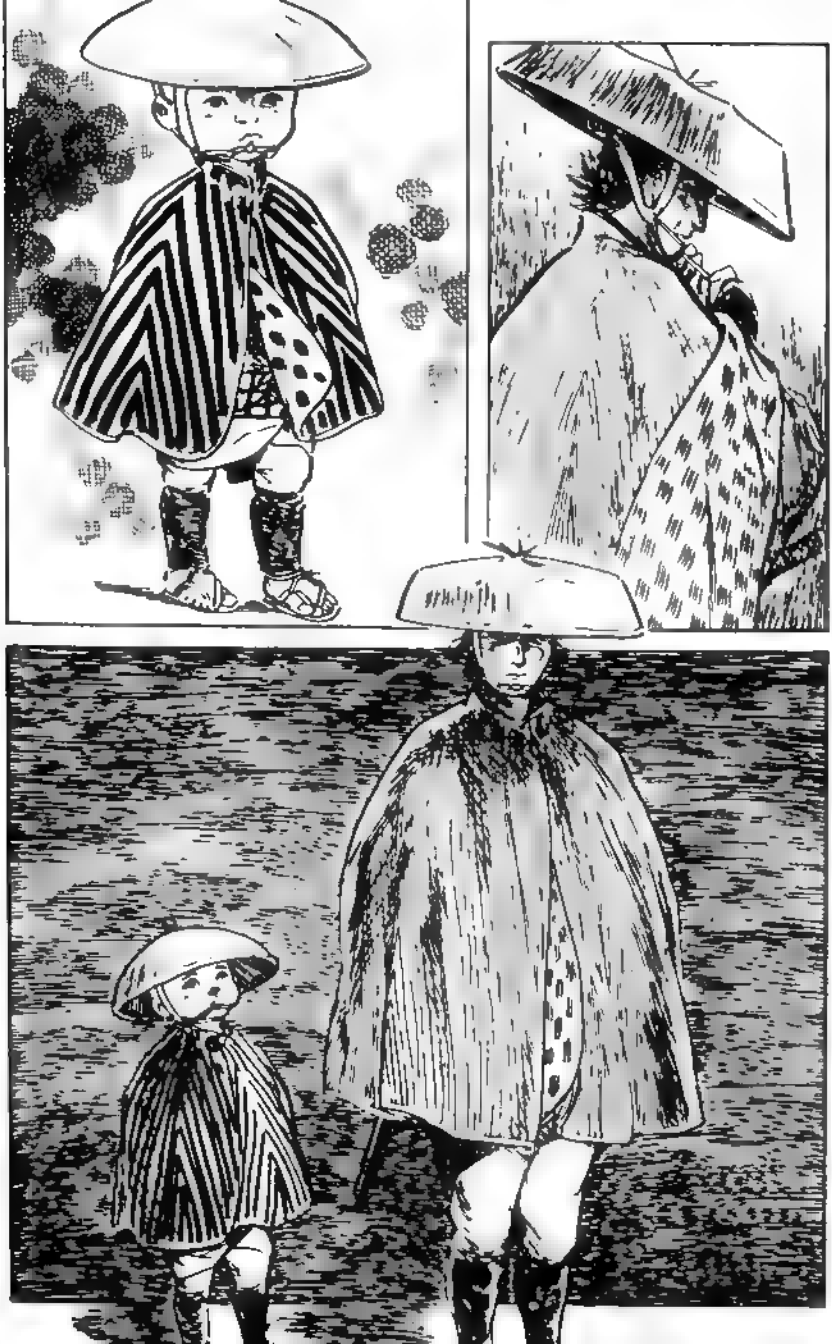
IT'S BEEN AGES DANNA. I AM TORIZŌ, OF THE KIOROSHI BŌHACHI

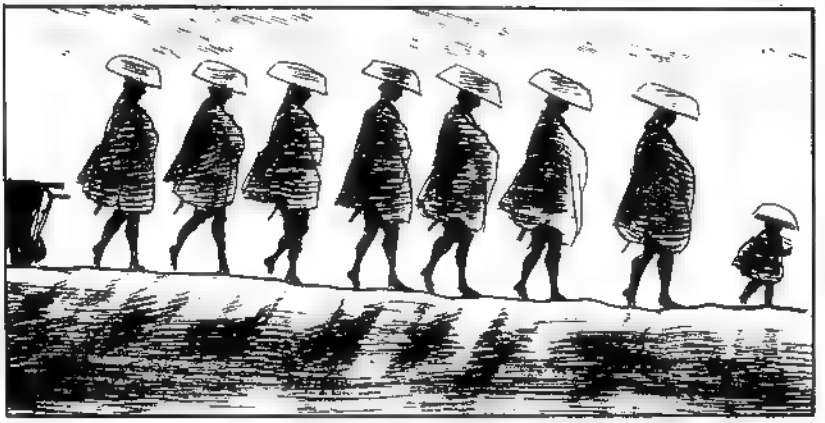
SETTLING A "DISAGREEMENT" WITH OUR PARTNERS. WE'RE HEADED BACK NOW
BUT WE RAN INTO AN OFFICIAL FROM MAOKA, HEADED FOR ONAHAMA. HE WAS CUT UP REAL BAD BY YOU. I WATCHED HIM DIE.

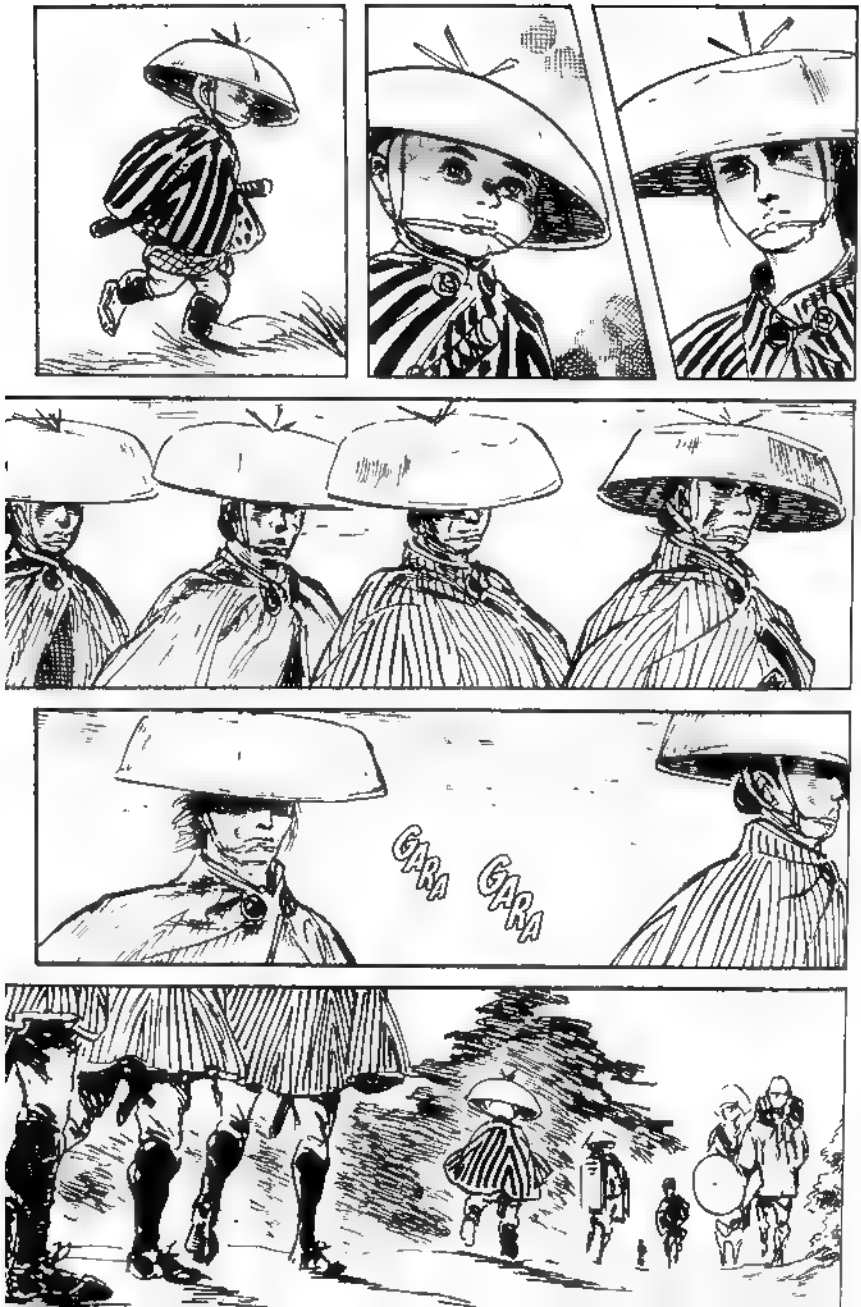
WE BURIED HIM WITH HONOR AND TURNED BACK
WHY?
LET US HELP YOU.
"PIETY, RESPECT, LOYALTY, HONESTY, DUTY, PEACE, MODESTY, SHAME." I THOUGHT THE BŌHACHI CARED NOTHING FOR THE UKIYO
INDEED BUT IF THE MEN OF THE FLOATING WORLD STOP BUYING OUR WOMEN, WE PERISH TOO
I GATHER YOU'RE BOUND FOR EDO.

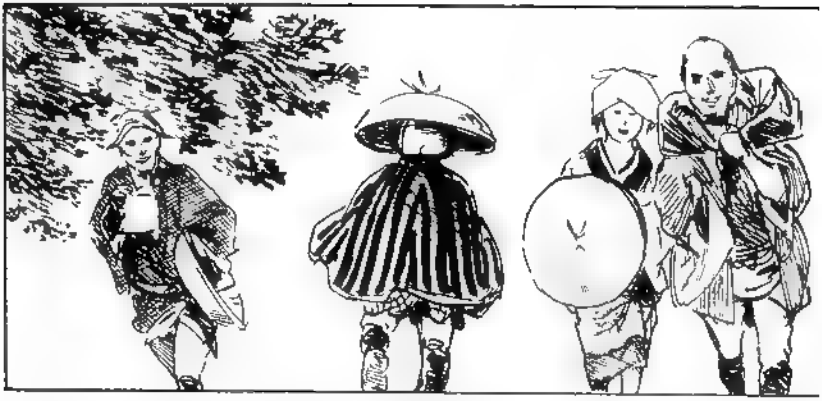
IF YOU KEEP ON THIS WAY, HOW MANY OF OUR CUSTOMERS WILL YOU SEND TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD?
EVEN WE BŌHACHI CAN'T STAND BY
AND YET WE CAN'T KILL YOU, EITHER. WE HAVE NO GRUDGE WITH YOU. AND NO HOPE OF VICTORY
DANNA! I'M NOT OFFERING— I'M DEMANDING LET US TAKE YOU AS FAR AS EDO.
I'M SURE YOU DON'T LIKE KILLING INNOCENTS
SO, WE'VE ALREADY PREPARED

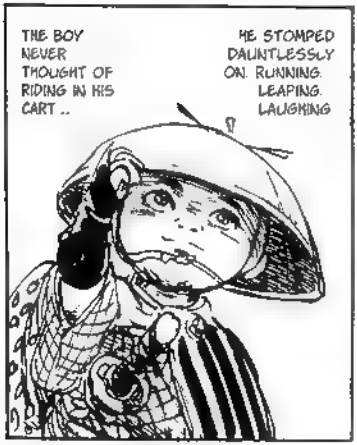
PLEASE. DISGUISE YOURSELF AS ONE OF US.
IF WE'RE FOUND OUT, YOU WILL DIE, TOO.
THEY'RE JUST LIVES, DANNA YOURS, AND OURS
THE KIOROSHI BORDELLOS WILL STILL PROSPER OUR CLIENTS WILL SURVIVE.
IF YOU SO INSIST YET
.WE'LL INCUR A DEBT WE CANNOT REPAY IN THIS LIFETIME.
THEN LET'S GET ON WITH IT





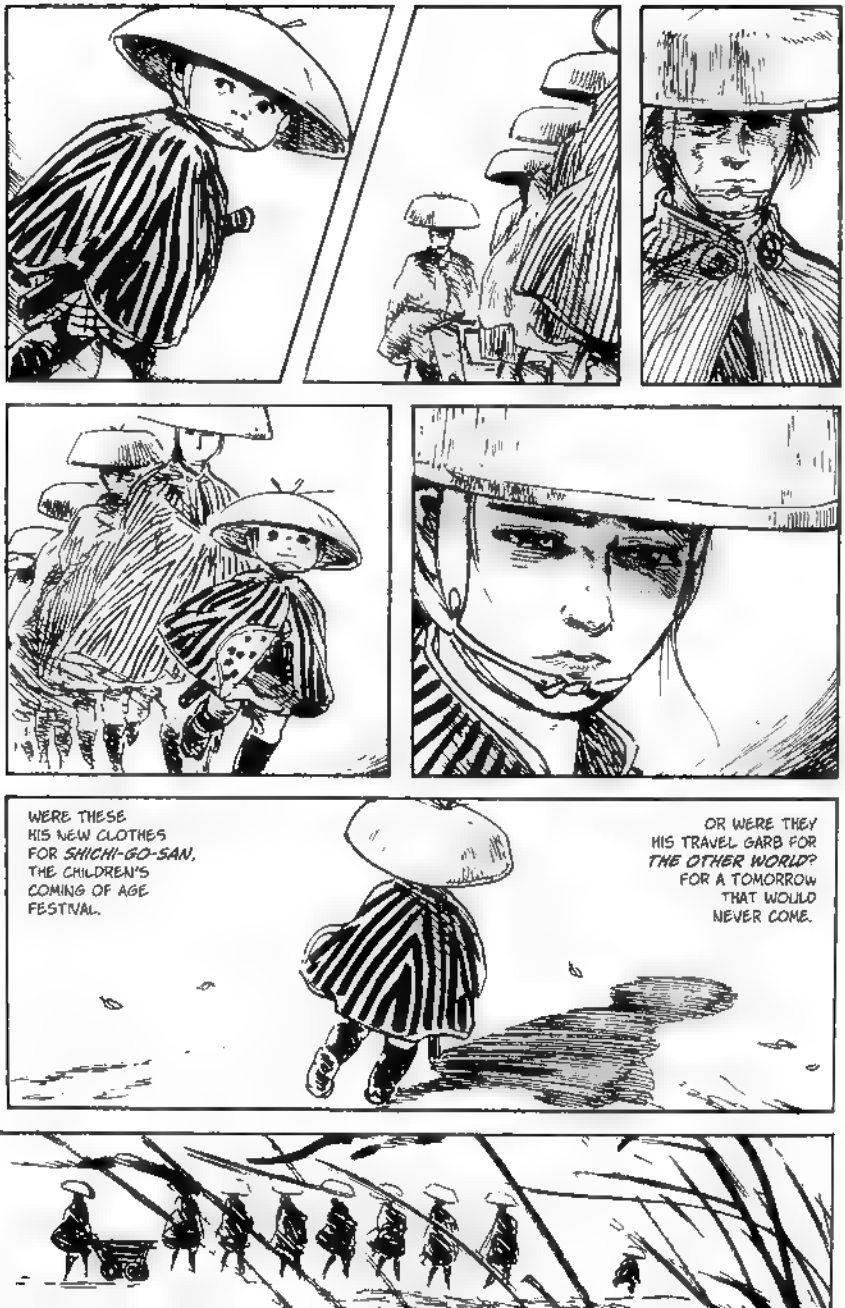

GARA GARA

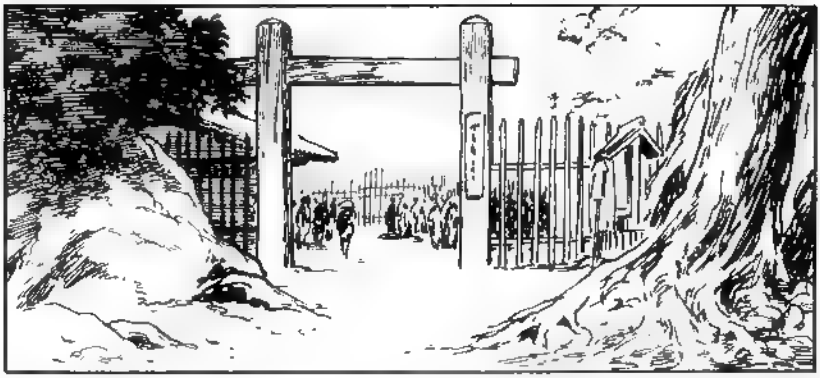


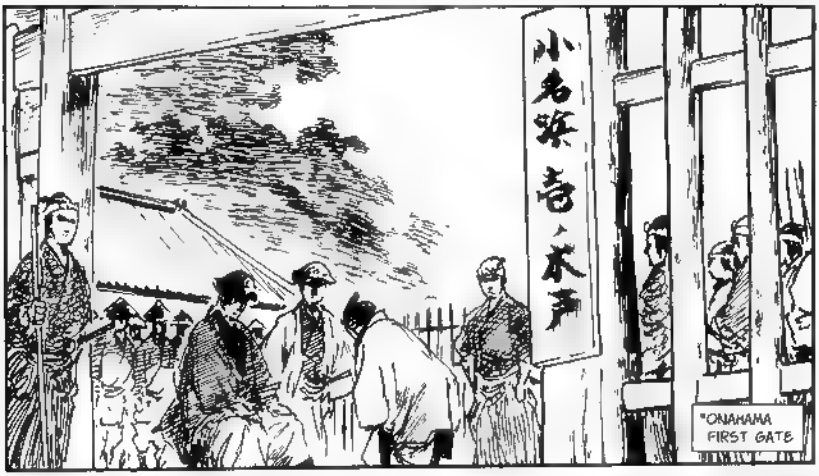

THE BOY NEVER THOUGHT OF RIDING IN HIS CART ..
HE STOMPED DAUNTLESSLY ON. RUNNING. LEAPING. LAUGHING

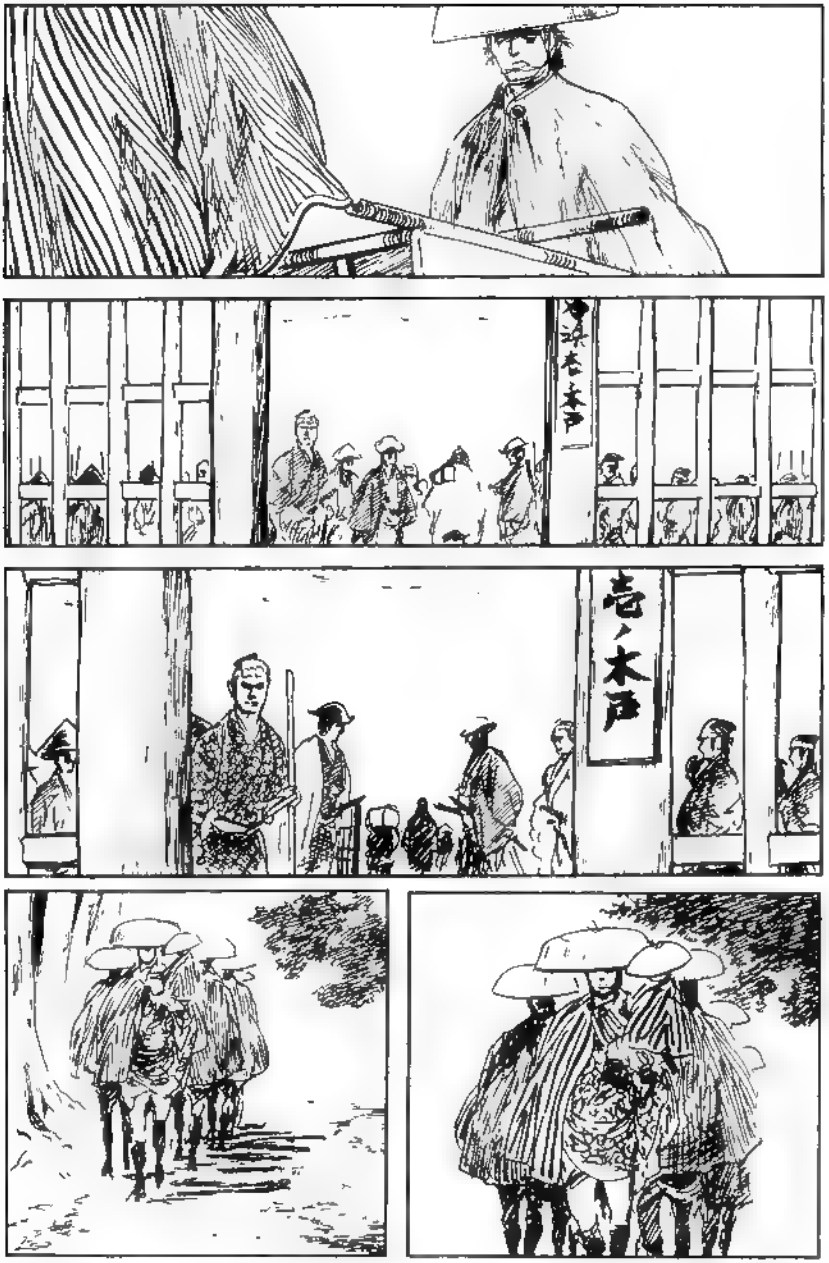
NEW STRAW SANDALS. NEW STRAW HAT . NEW CAPE, NEW KIMONO!
AND HIS VERY OWN SHORT SWORD, NINE SUN FIVE BU LONG A SPARKLING, SHINING BLADE

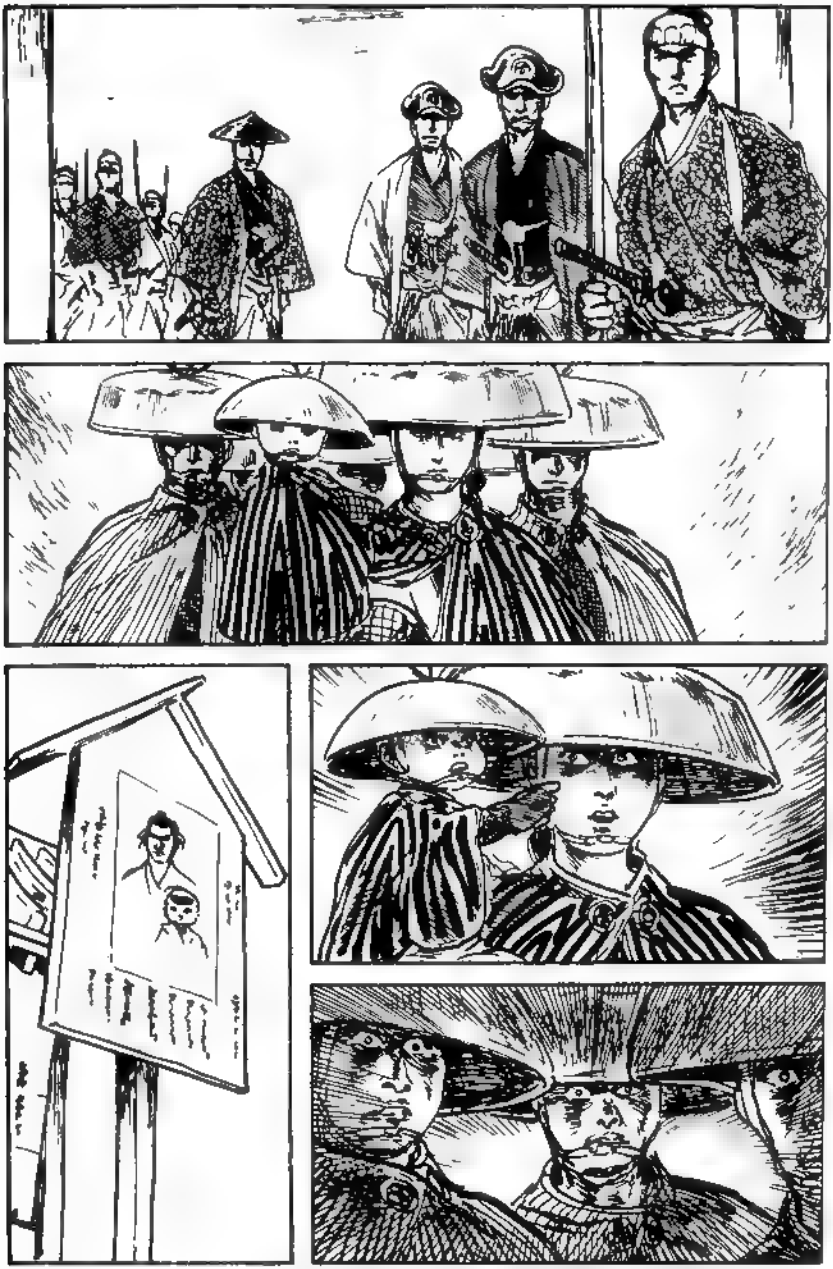
EVERYTHING BRAND NEW. AND SO, WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING WHAT THAT NEWNESS MIGHT MEAN.
.THE BOY SMILED WITH DELIGHT HOPPED AND SKIPPED DASHED ON.
HE WAS ALMOST THREE YEARS OLD

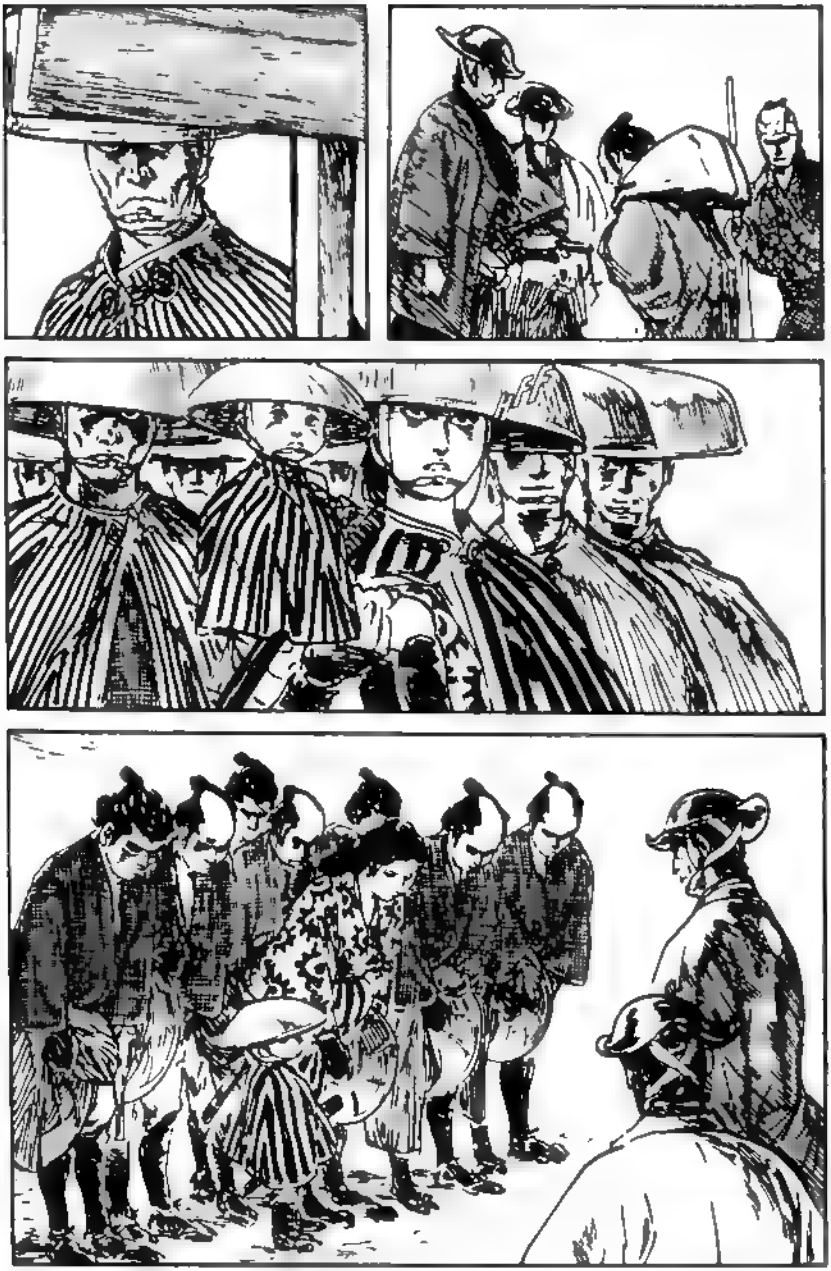

WERE THESE HIS NEW CLOTHES FOR *SHICHI-GO-SAN*, THE CHILDREN'S COMING OF AGE FESTIVAL.
OR WERE THEY HIS TRAVEL GARB FOR *THE OTHER WORLD*? FOR A TOMORROW THAT WOULD NEVER COME.




小名浜一番木戸
*ONAHAMA
FIRST GATE

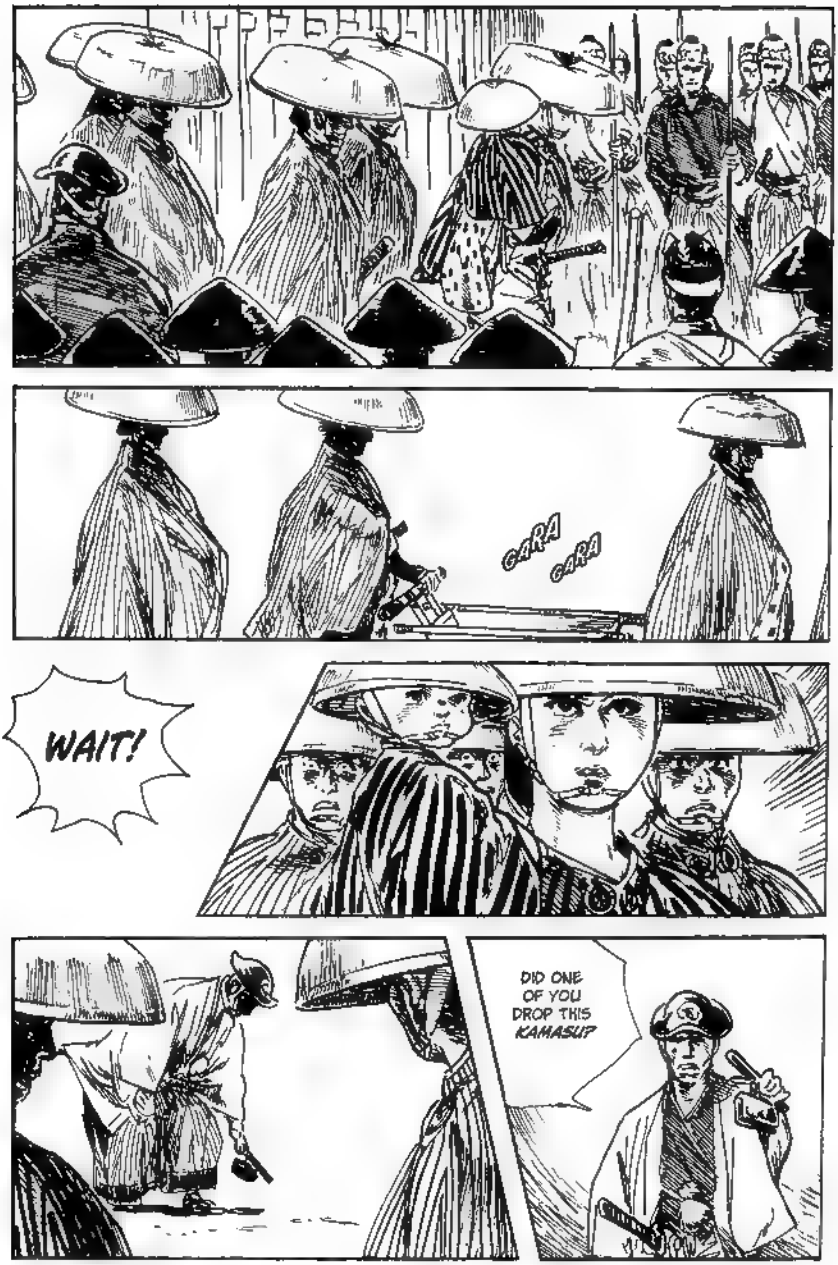

壱ノ木戸



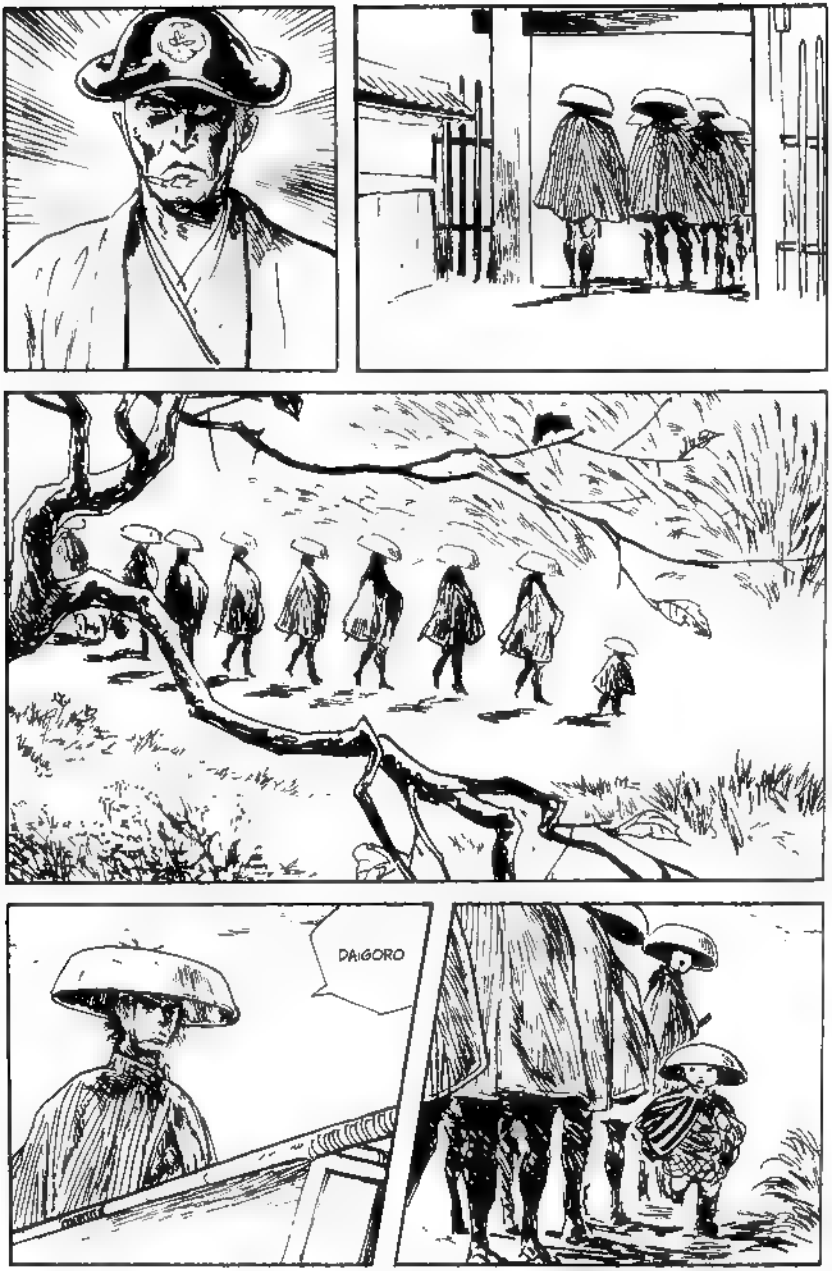


TORIZŌ, OF THE KIOROSHI BORDELLOS I RETURN, WITH MY LIEUTENANTS.
MARK US WELL, AND LET US PASS
TORIZŌ, IS IT?
AND THIS BOY ?
MY ADOPTED SON, SIR, SOMEDAY TO BE THE THIRD BOSS OF THE KIOROSHI BŌHACHI
HMM. . . . .
HE LOOKS VERY ALIKE, IN AGE AND FEATURES.
TO WHOM, SIR?
TO THE SON OF LONE WOLF AND CUB

SIR, YOU JEST! THIS IS THE GRANDSON OF IGATA SABURŌBE, KOSABURŌ BY NAME. THE PURPOSE OF THIS JOURNEY WAS TO FINALIZE THE ADOPTION.
KSSH
HMM! ALL RIGHT, YOUNG MAN! I'M CONVINCED!
HEH!


GARA
GARA
WAIT!
DID ONE OF YOU DROP THIS KAMASU?

OH! THAT'S MINE!
TH- THANKS.
POK
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR!


DAIGORO

FWUP
DANNA! IS SOMETHING WRONG?
MY THANKS BUT T'S TIME TO PART
B-BUT WHY?!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER CHECKPOINTS?
TRAVEL FURTHER WITH US, AND YOU'LL BE NAMED CONSPIRATORS

BUT WHY NOW? ALREADY?
THE SITUATION HAS CHANGED. THEY'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE.
WHAT?!
THEY'RE LEAVING THE SEKISHO IN FORCE AS WE SPEAK.
THEY SAW THROUGH YOUR DISGUISE...?!
PLEASE— LEAVE US QUICKLY!
BUT IF THEY SPOTTED YOU.. WHY DIDN'T THEY STRIKE...?
IWA! IT WAS YOU!
YOU DROPPED YOUR PIPE CASE ON PURPOSE.
AND PASSED A MESSAGE!
DAMN RIGHT I DID!

YEAH, I TOLD THEM. YOU GOT THAT RIGHT
BUT I SAID LONE WOLF FORCED US TO DO IT I ASKED THEM FOR HELP!
IWA-!!
MOTO-JIME!
WE'RE BŌHACHI! WHY DO WE GOT TO HELP LONE WOLF AND CUB?
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM KILLING OUR CLIENTS. WELL, I DON'T BUY IT! IF THAT'S THE REASON, WE OUGHT'TA BE HELPING OUT FOLK THAT HAVE FLOODS, FIRES. . RIGHT?!

HE'S WANTED! HELP HIM OR NOT THEY'LL GET HIM!
YOU WANT TO BE TRAPPED? SEE YOUR PRECIOUS MEN BUTCHERED? I SAY SETTLE IT NOW— WITH THE LIFE OF ONE GUY WHO OWES YOU.
'CAUSE IF WE STICK WITH LONE WOLF WE AIN'T GOT NO TOMORROW
NOW— COME ON! KILL ME! I SOLD YOU OUT!
I AIN'T GOT NO RIGHT TO DEAL.
BUT AT LEAST PROMISE YOU'LL LEAVE THE BŌHACHI ALONE FROM NOW ON!
IWA! YOU RAT!!
YOU'VE RUINED MY NAME!

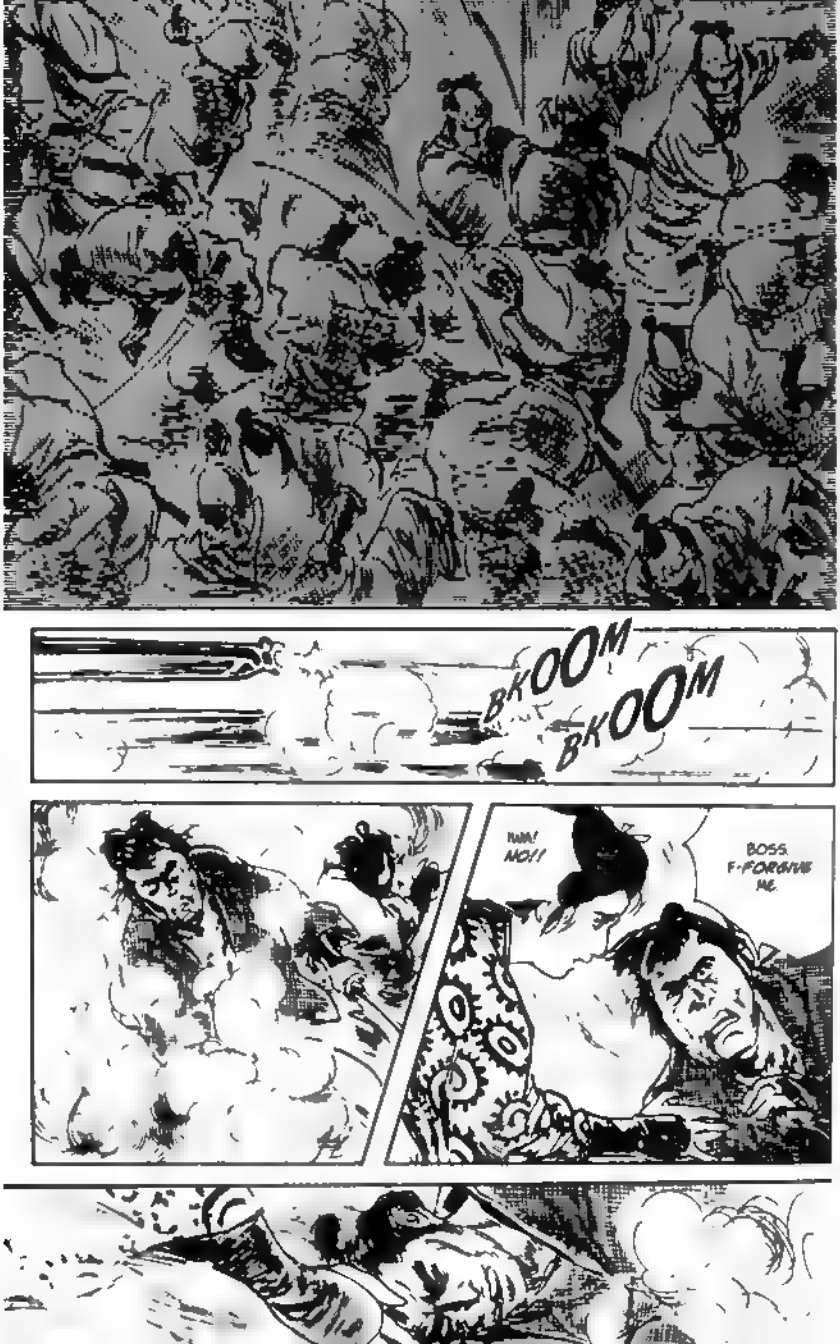
KRAK
STOP! TO SEE THIS PAINS MY HEART
HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH TORIZŌ
BUT BUT—!
IT'S TOO LATE FOR EVERY-THING
FAREWELL.

HYAHHH!!
RYAHH!
LONE WOLF AND CUB!!
SURRENDER!!
MOTO-JIME!! DON'T DO IT!
GO-YŌ!
YOU KNOW IT'S WRONG

IWA! I NAME YOU THIRD BOSS OF THE KIOROSHI!
GUIDE THEM WELL— YOU HEAR ME?!
B-BOSS! WHAT THE HELL...?!
I, TORIZŌ, SECOND BOSS OF THE KIOROSHI, HAVE LIVED LIKE A MAN FOR TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS!
BUT TODAY, I SHALL DIE AS A WOMAN!
BOSS, YOU... AND LONE WOLF ?
I. I SHOULDA SEEN IT

BKOOM
BKOOM
BKAM
BKAMM
DANNA!
LET ME DIE WITH YOU!

BKAM
CHOK
M-
MOTO-
JIME!!


BKOOM
BKOOM
NAH! NO!!
BOSS. F-FORGIVE ME.

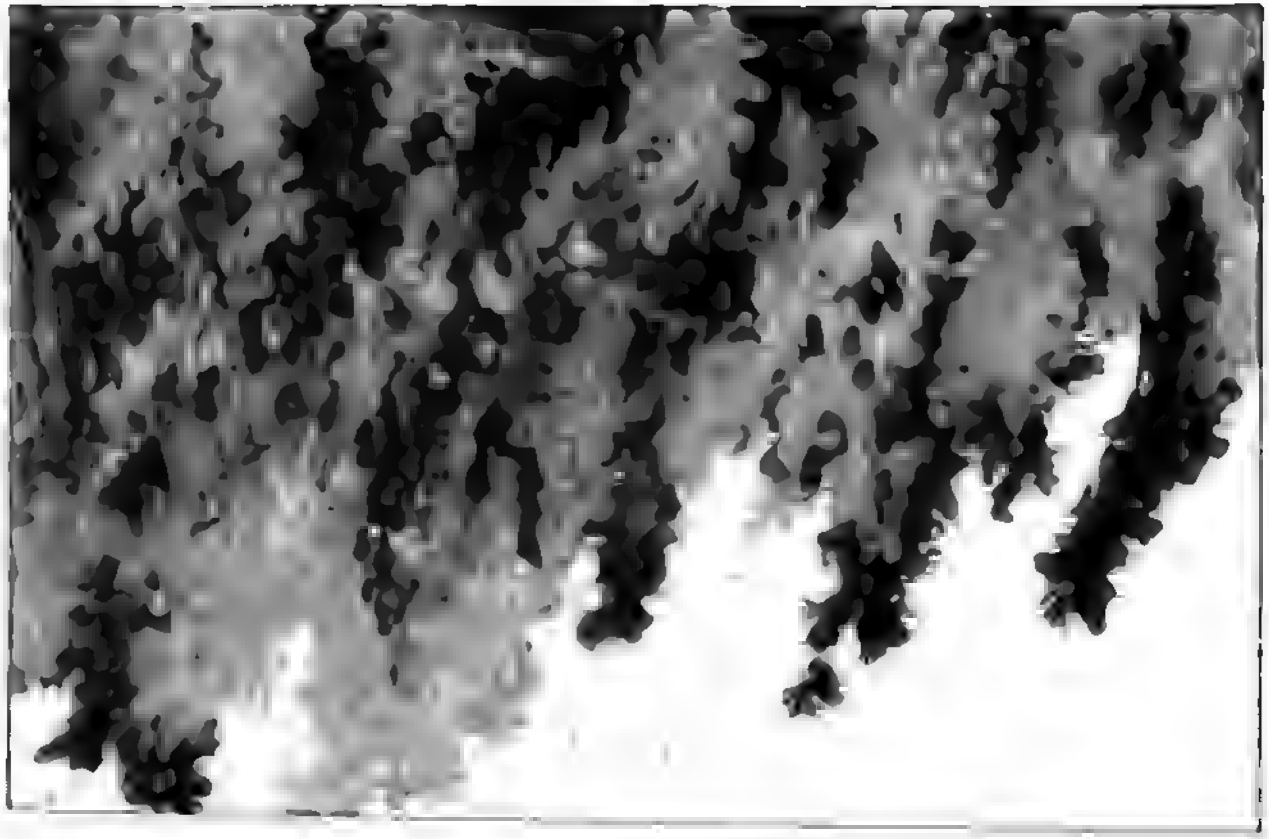
CHOK
AAH!
HRAK!
SHUKK!
SKSSSH
SKLUSH
HYAH!
RGGK!

TORIZŌ!
MY REAL NAME IS.. O-TORI
O-TORI
AHH. SUCH HAPPINESS. IN YOUR ARMS.
LET ME GO WITH YOU, LOVE. GO TO A TOMORROW THAT NEVER COMES.
ALL OUR TOMORROWS..

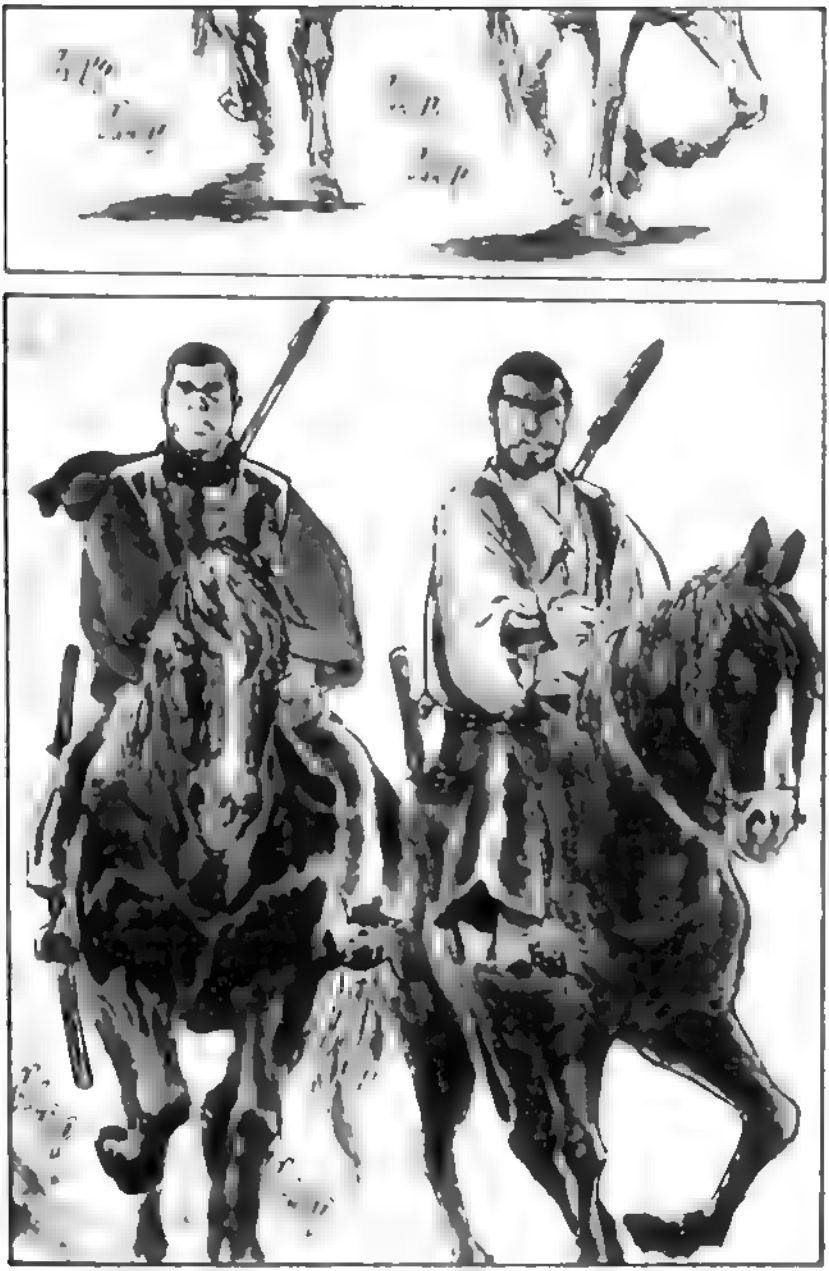
#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
Lone Wolf and Cub

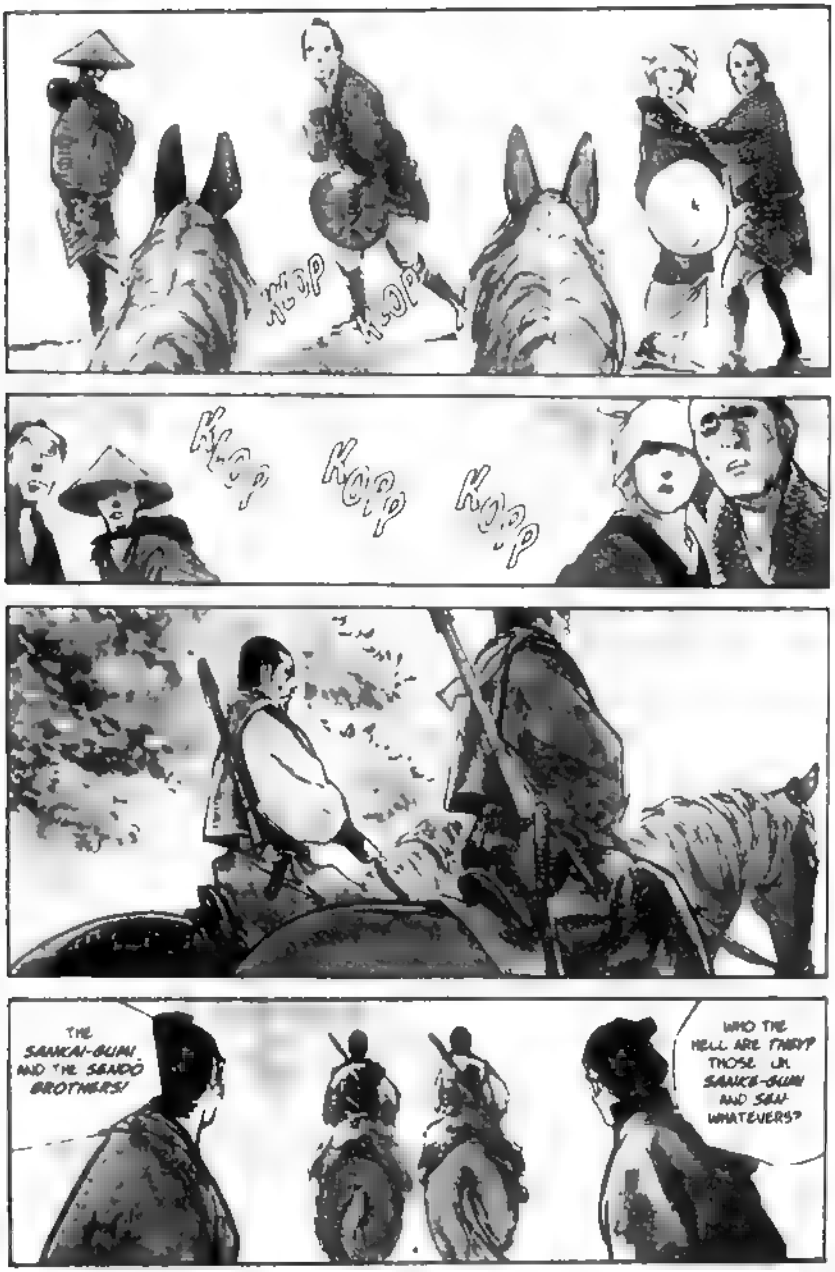
the eighty-fourth

Bounty Demons

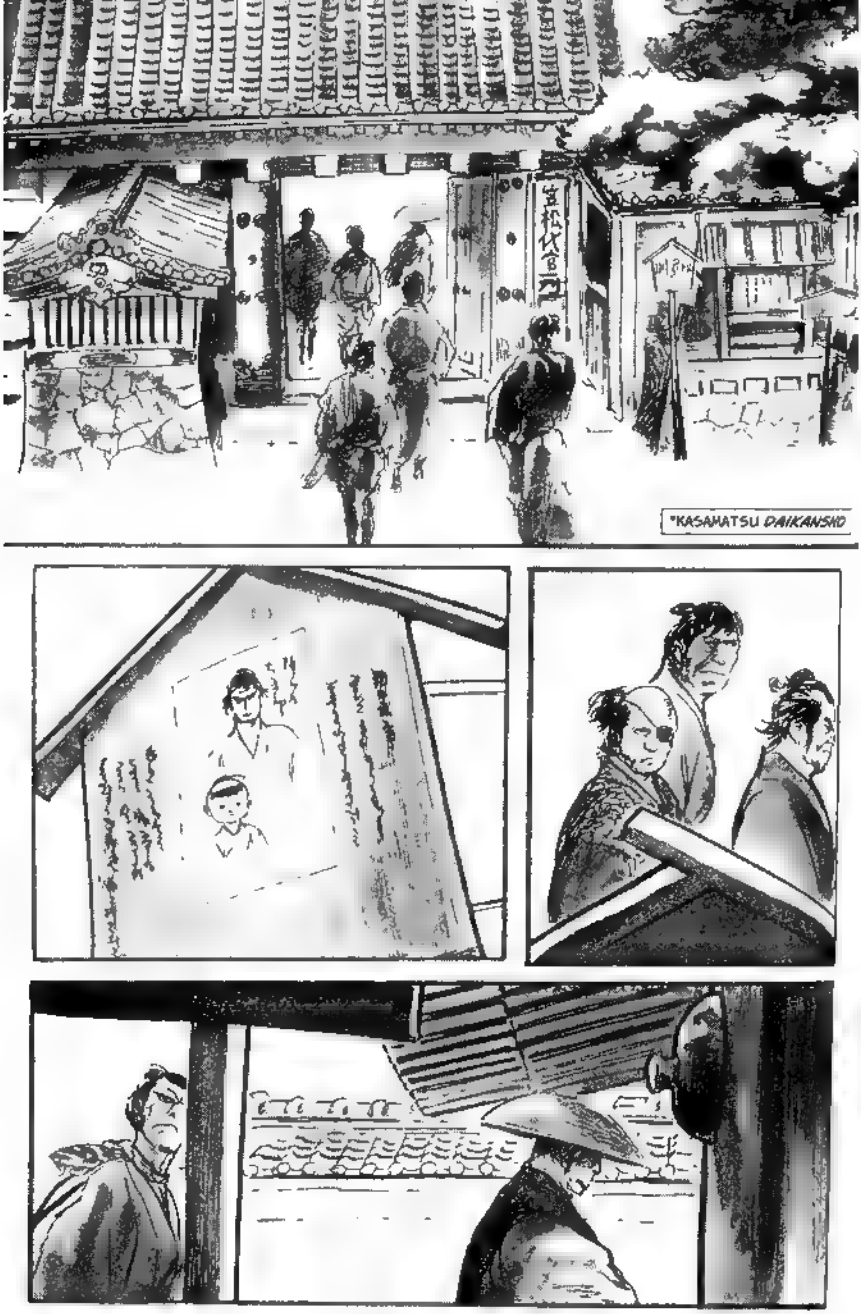


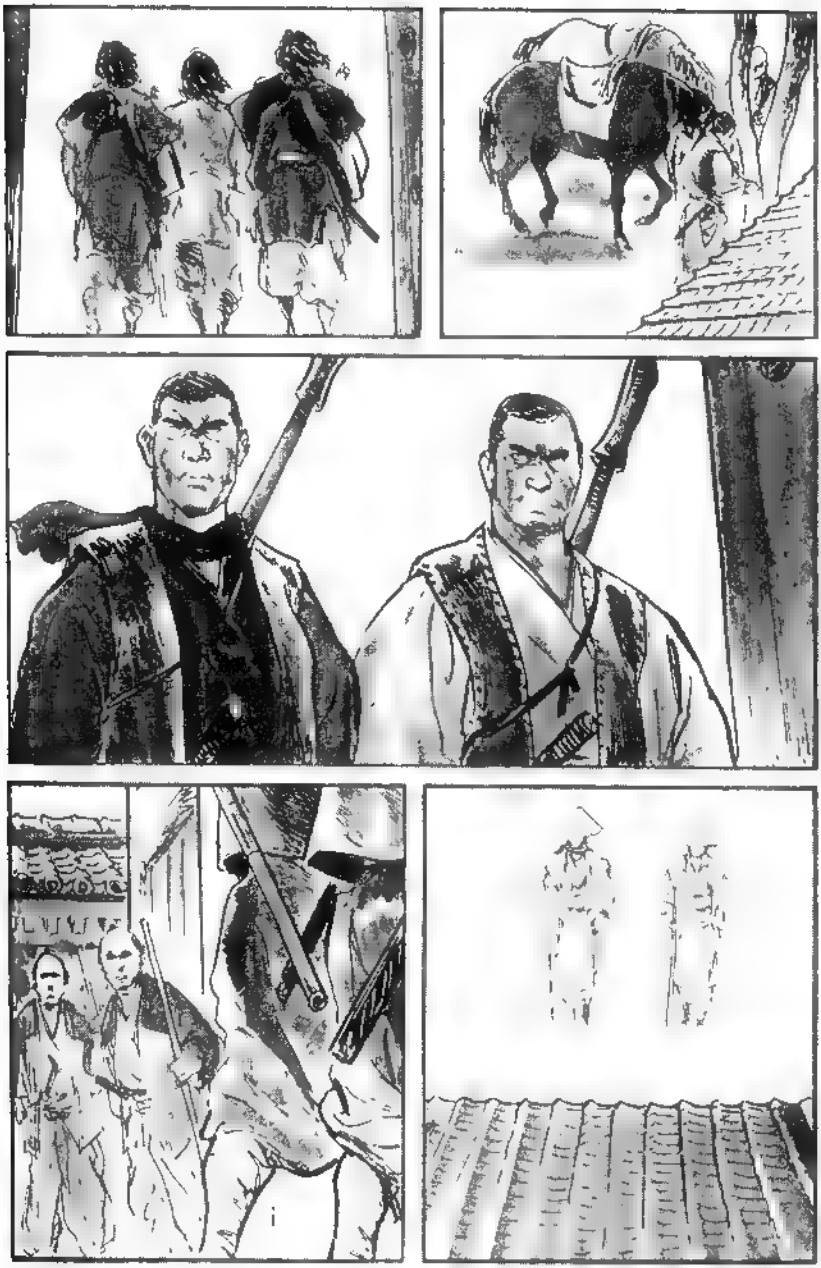
KSHING
KSHANG
KSHING
KSHING
KSHING
KSHING




KLOP KLOP
KLOP KLOP KLOP
THE SANKAI-GUMI AND THE SENDO BROTHERS!
WHO THE HELL ARE THEY? THOSE UH, SANKO-GUMI AND SEN-WHATEVERS?

UH?! YOU NEVER HEARD OF THEM? THEY'RE BOUNTY HUNTERS!
BOUNTY HUNTERS .?!
THAT'S RIGHT. GOD KNOWS WHERE THEY HANG OUT, BUT PUT A PRICE ON SOMEONE'S HEAD, AND BANG— THERE THEY ARE.
KILLERS! HEAVEN PRESERVE US!
CHINGGG
CHRINGG
CHINGG
CHINGG


*KASAMATSU DAIKANSHO



OH! LADIES! I'M SORRY, BUT YOU CAN'T—
D-DON'T MIND ME!
STEP RIGHT IN!
FOOL! DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?
HUH ? WHAT DON'T TELL ME ?
DAMN RIGHT! THAT'S "NEEDLES" O-KUMA AND HER DAUGHTER, "FAST-DRAW" CHIYO!
GOOD GOD!

YOU!! BOW DOWN! YOU'RE BEFORE THE DAIKAN!

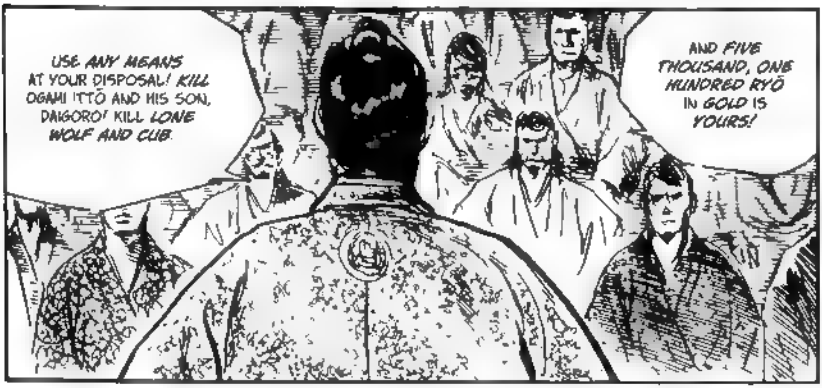
WE'RE NOT OF THIS LAND, AND OWE HIM *NOTHING*.
WE'RE THE WORLD'S *GARBAGE MEN*. WE CLEAN UP YOUR *TRASH*, AND TAKE OUR *BOUNTIES* THAT IS *ALL* WHY MAKE *OBEISANCE?*
WE COLLECT BOUNTIES TO *LIVE* AND LIVE TO COLLECT *BOUNTIES*. PAY US A BOUNTY FOR DIPPING OUR HEADS, AND WE WILL *BOW*, IF YOU LIKE.
WHY, YOU *INSOLENT—!*
LET THEM BE.
ROUGH WORDS. WORTHY OF *BOUNTY DEMONS*.
BUT ALSO *TRUE*
THEN LET'S TALK BUSINESS. RIGHT NOW THE LONE WOLF BOUNTY IS *FIFTY* IN GOLD *RYŌ*. *CHUMP CHANGE*. NOT WORTH OUR TIME! IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU RAISED THE PRICE.
SO HOW MUCH *NOW?*

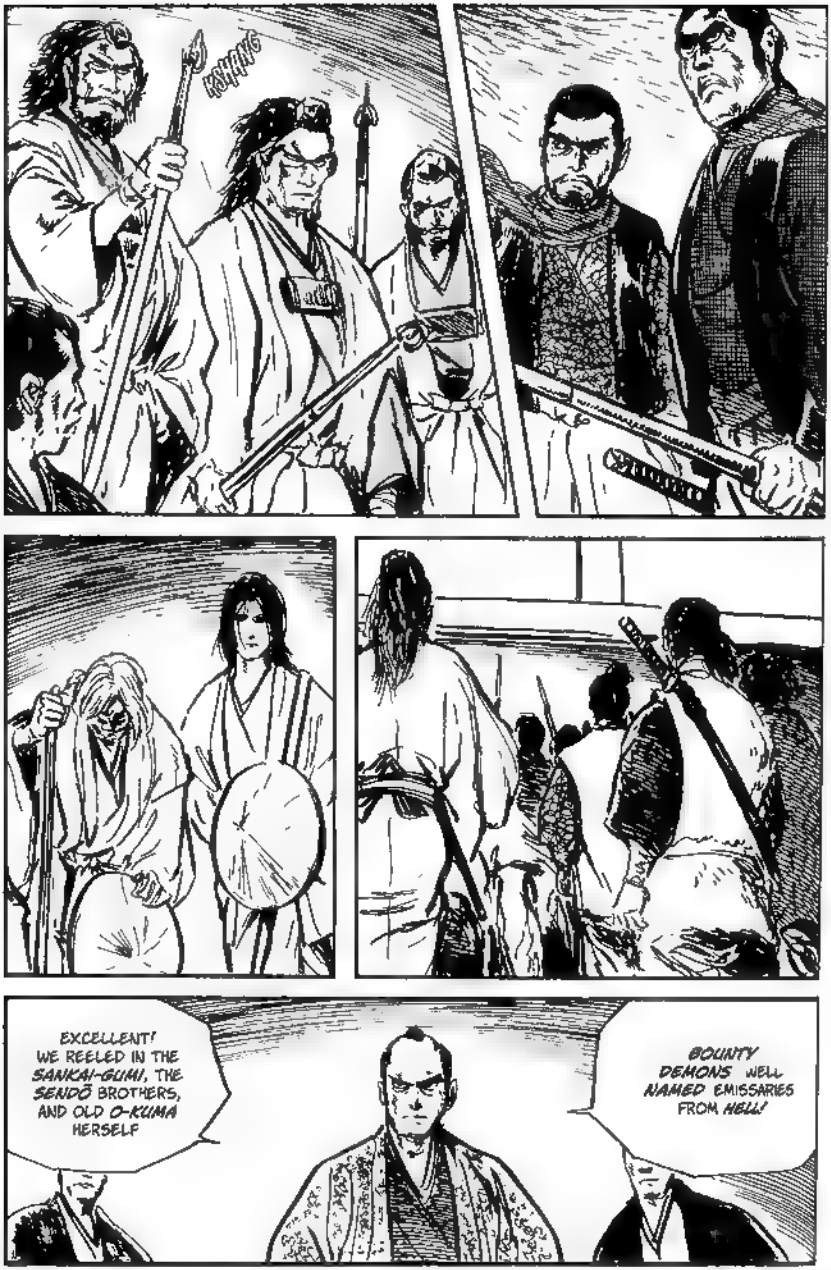
HE SAID IT. WE'VE COME TO HEAR YOUR OFFER. CONVINCE US, AND WE'LL DISPOSE OF HIM. PLAY CHEAP, WE LEAVE.
YOU GUESSED IT, BOYS.
IT'S TRUE— THERE'S A NEW BOUNTY ON OGAMI ITTŌ'S HEAD.
WE'RE RAISING IT TO ONE HUNDRED RYŌ!
SHI—!!
WHAT ...?!
D-DAMN!
KMPH!
AND FURTHER, AN INCENTIVE BONUS FROM THE YAGYŪ CLAN—
—OF FIVE THOUSAND RYŌ!!

HRN.
FIVE THOUSAND RYŌ? THE YAGYŪ MEAN BUSINESS!
LORDY!
HEH. IT WAS WORTH COMING.
MAYBE. STILL TOO CHEAP FOR HIM.
LONE WOLF AND CUB! BUT WORTH OUR TIME, ANYWAY

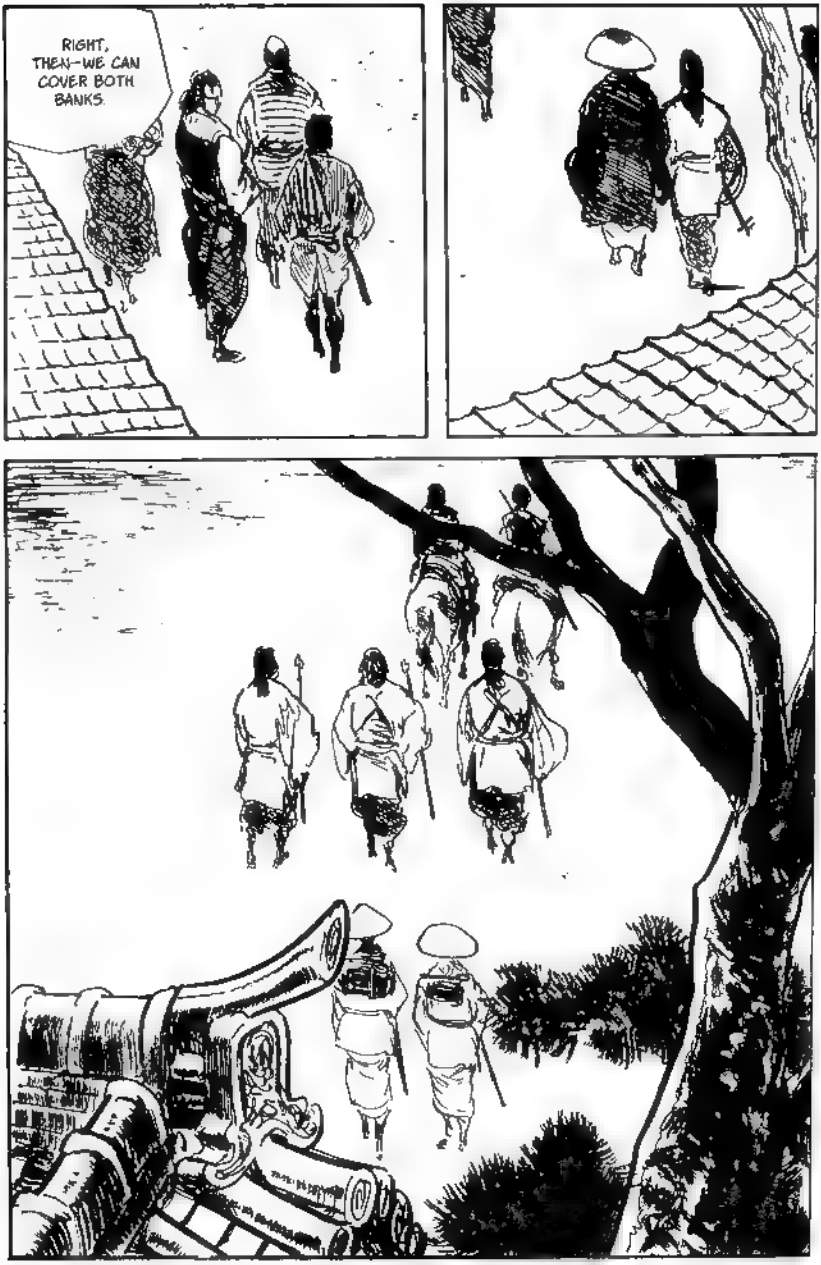
OGAMI ITTŌ HAS *SLAUGHTERED* THE OFFICERS OF THE MAOKA *DAIKANSHO* TRANSITING ONAHAMA TERRITORY. HE KILLED LARGE NUMBERS OF PURSUERS *THERE* AS WELL
HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE *UNKNOWN*. HOWEVER, HE'S VIRTUALLY *CERTAIN* TO CROSS KASAMATSU AS HE HEADS FOR EDO

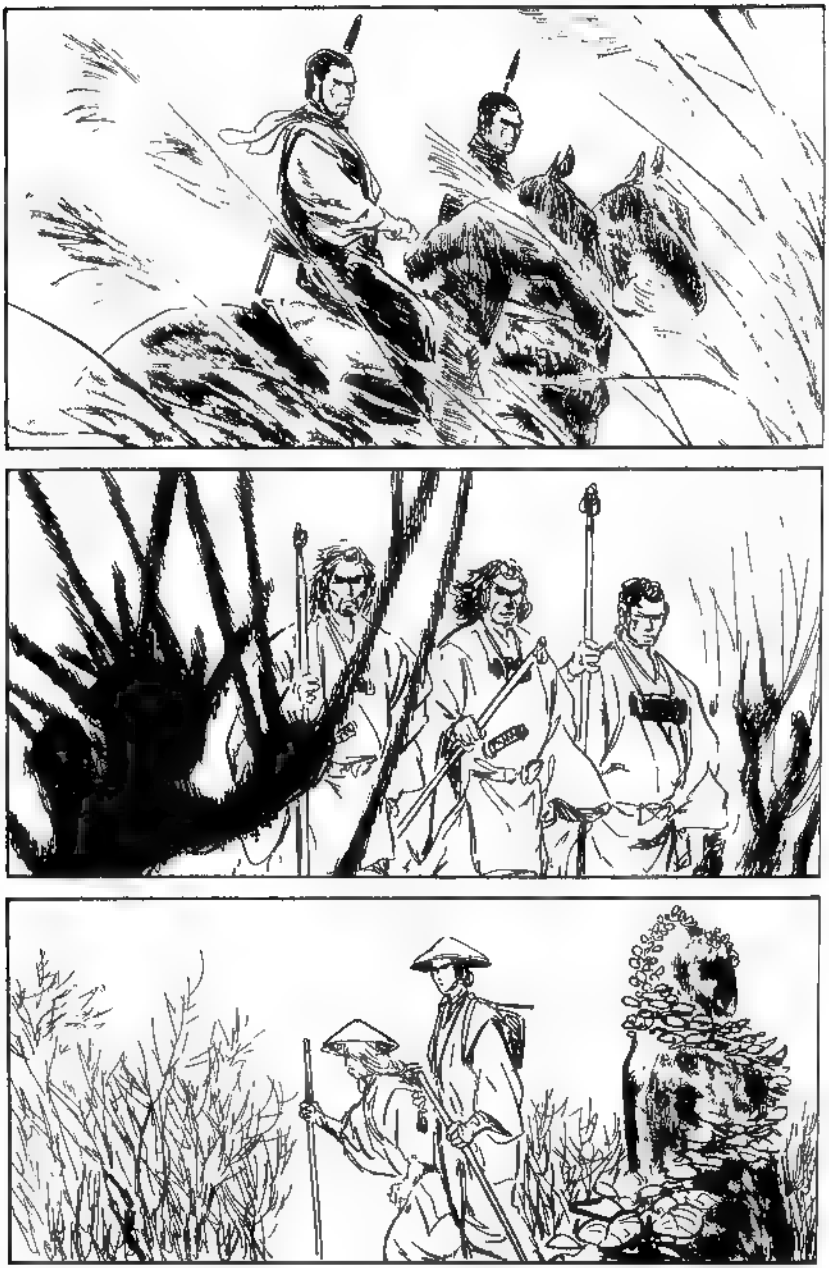
EVEN THE *YAGYŪ* ARE AFRAID TO TAKE HIM ON. THAT'S WHAT THAT *FIVE THOUSAND RYŌ* MEANS
BUT IF YOU CALL YOURSELVES *BOUNTY DEMONS*, YOU MUST HAVE SOME *CONFIDENCE* IN YOUR *SKILLS*. EH?

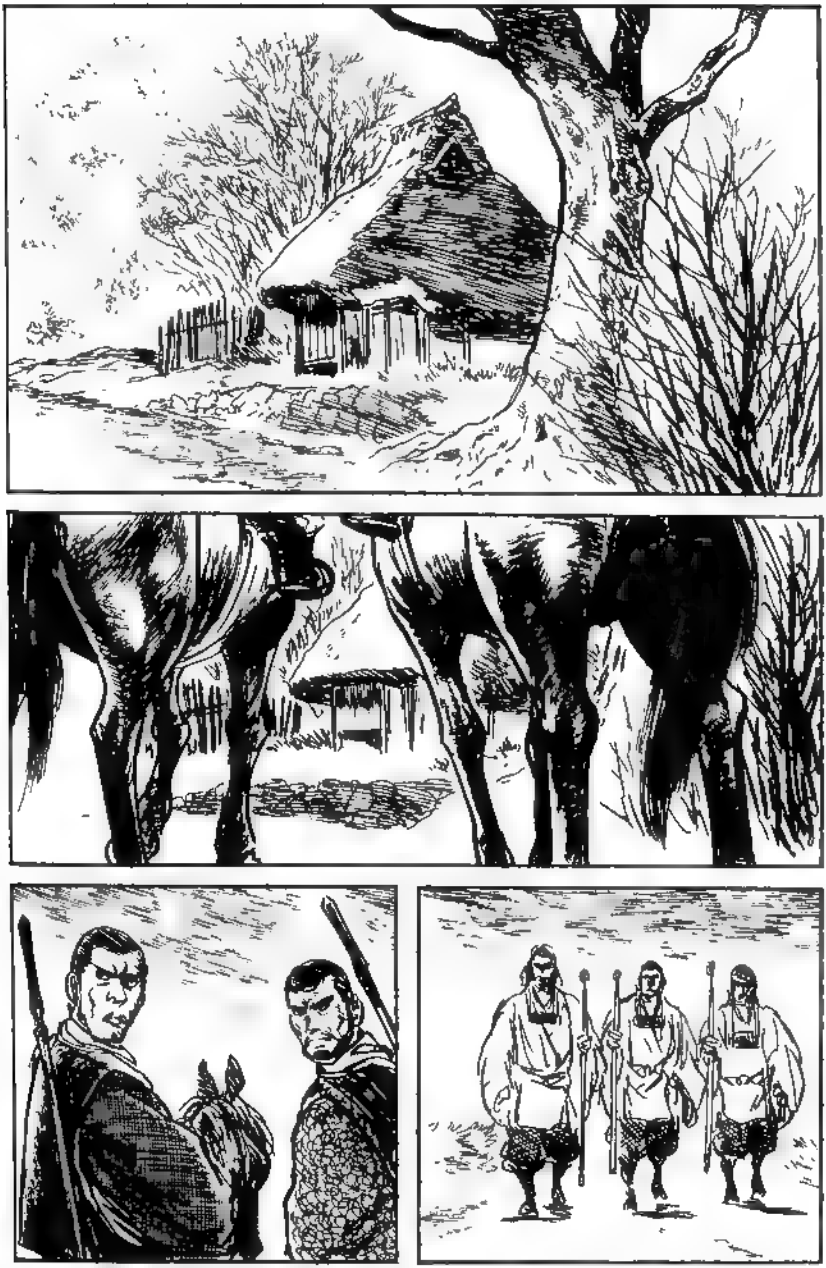

USE *ANY MEANS* AT YOUR DISPOSAL! *KILL* OGAMI ITTŌ AND HIS SON, DAIGORŌ! KILL *LONE WOLF AND CUB*.
AND *FIVE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED RYŌ* IN *GOLD* IS *YOURS!*


KATCHING
EXCELLENT! WE REELED IN THE SANKAI-GUMI, THE SENDŌ BROTHERS, AND OLD O-KUMA HERSELF
BOUNTY DEMONS WELL NAMED EMISSARIES FROM HELL!

笠松代官所
HE'LL HIDE IN THE MOUNTAINS, FOLLOW THE RIDGES THROUGH KASAMATSU.
YEAH.
OKAY, LET'S GO!
FIGURE HE WON'T TAKE TO THE HILLS. TOO SLOW. HE'LL FLOAT DOWN THE *TONE* RIVER AT NIGHT, AND SLIP OUT THROUGH *SANUKI*
SOUNDS RIGHT

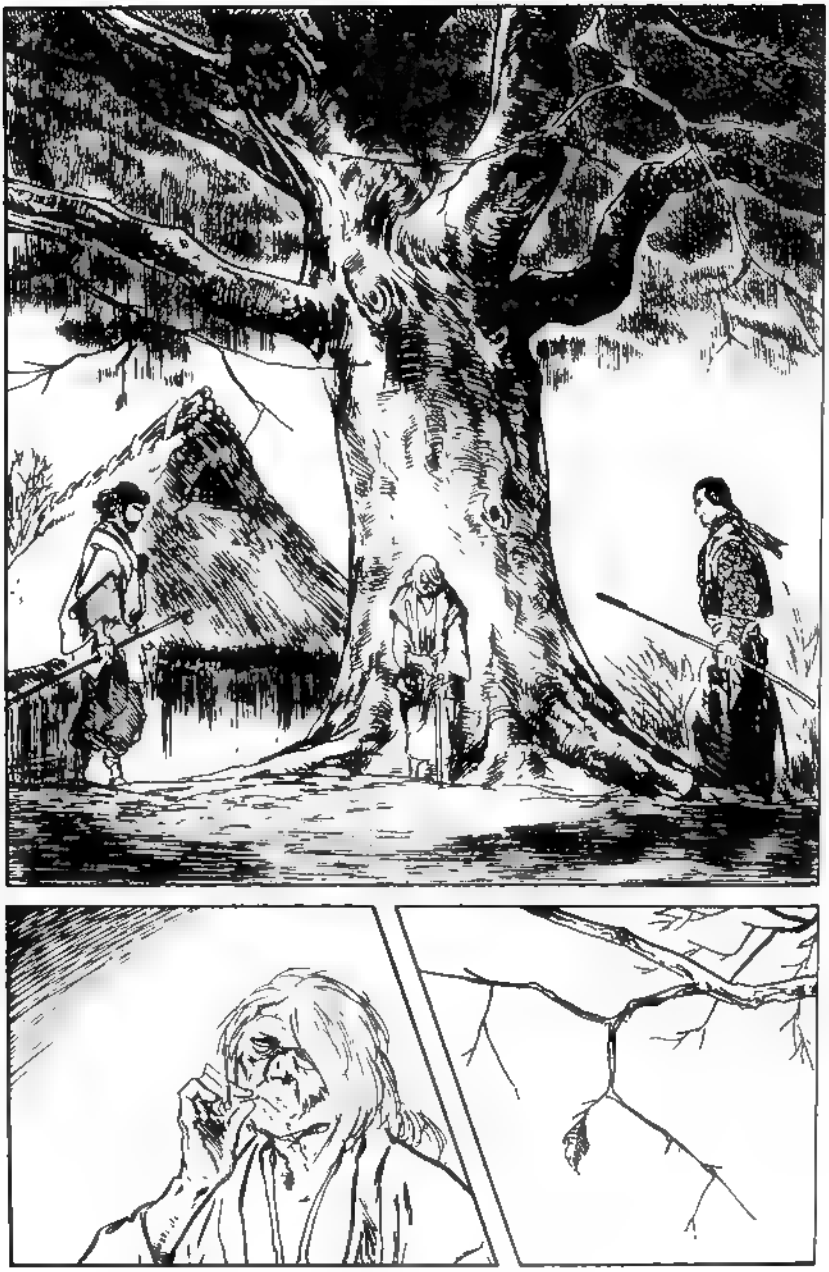

RIGHT, THEN—WE CAN COVER BOTH BANKS.



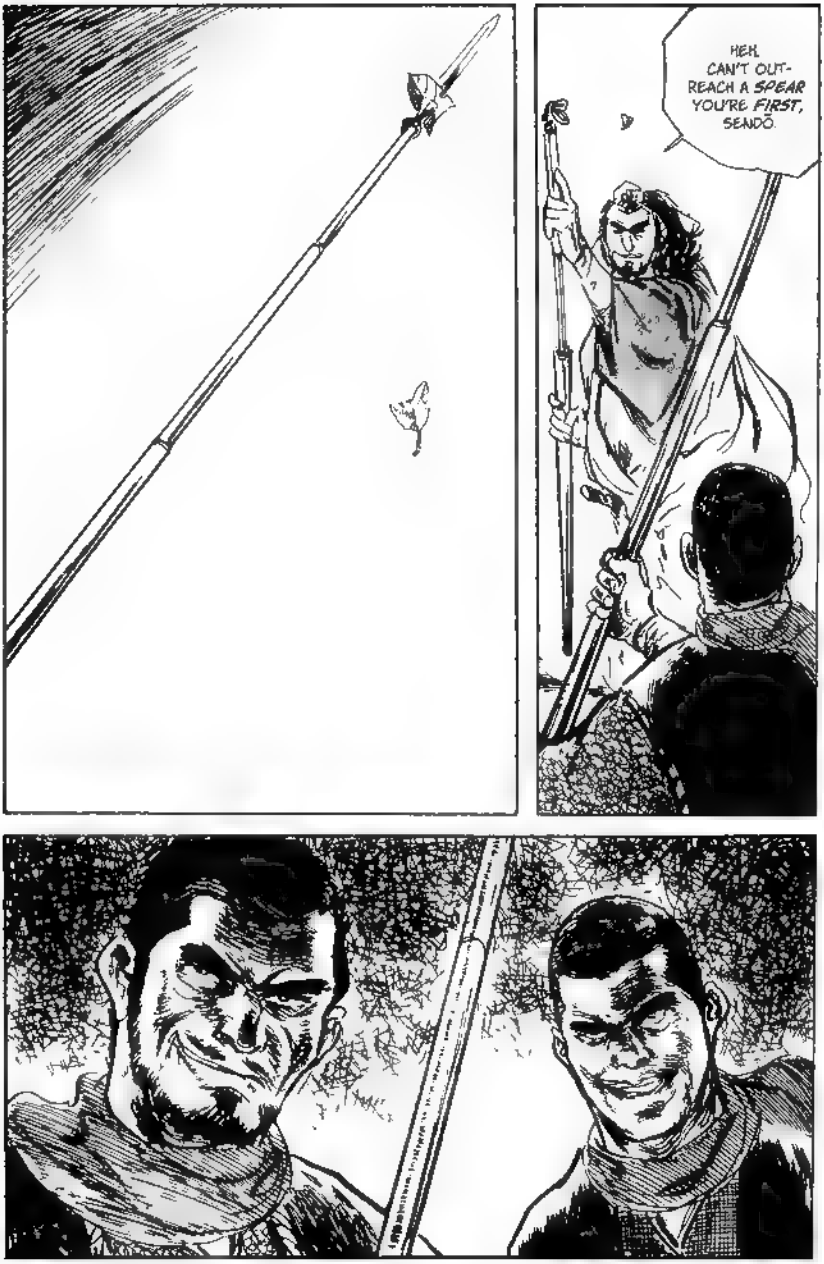


IT SEEMS WE THINK THE SAME.
LONE WOLF AND CUB WON'T CREEP ALONG MOUNTAIN PATHS *OR* FLOAT DOWNRIVER IN DARKNESS HE'LL COME DOWN THE *MAIN HIGHWAY*, IN *BROAD DAYLIGHT*.
THAT'S THE SORT OF MAN HE IS

HYEH HEH HEH! LET'S WAIT IN THET FARMHOUSE - IT'S DAMN FREEZIN' OUT HERE!
WE HAVE TO PICK AN ORDER FOR ATTACK
WE'RE HAPPY GOIN' LAST YOU YOUNG FELLERS WORK IT OUT AMONGST YERSELVES.

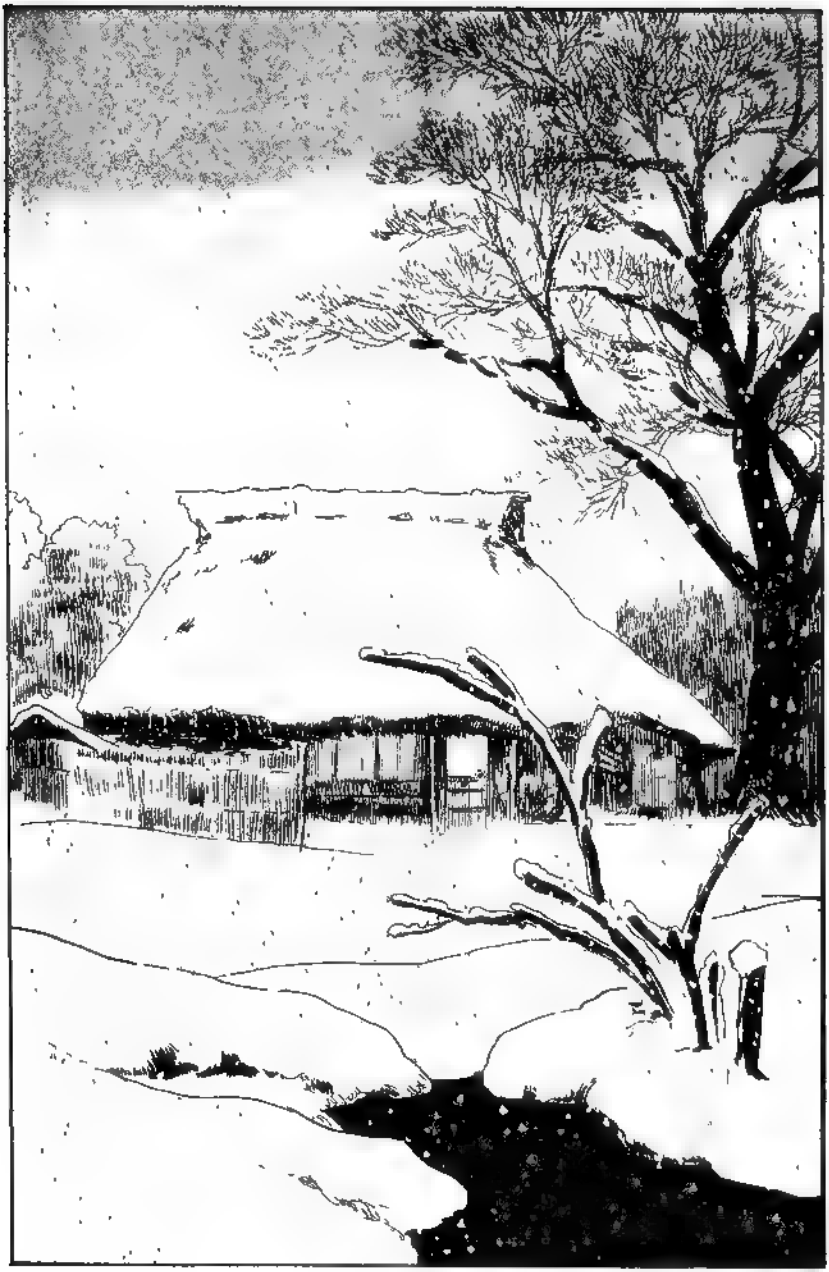


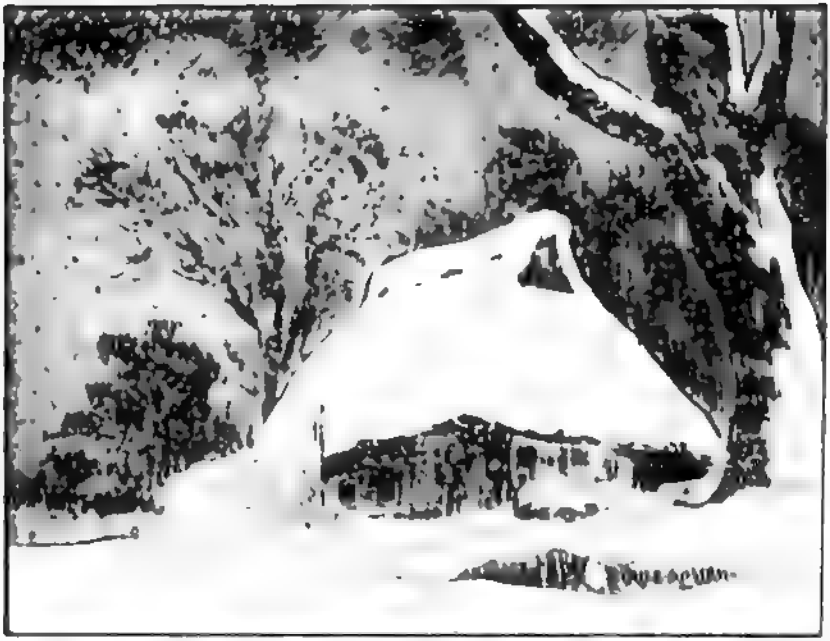
PAINT
SHINGG
WHSSHNK

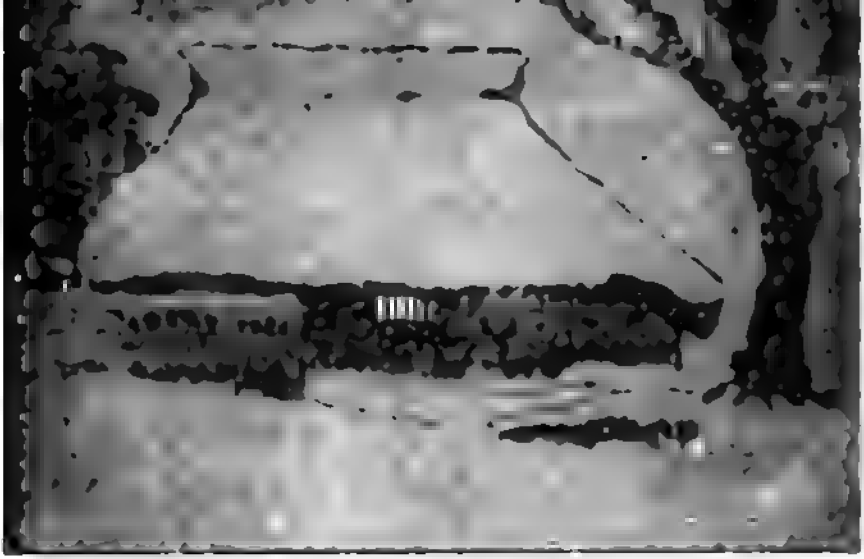

HEH. CAN'T OUT-REACH A SPEAR YOU'RE FIRST, SENDŌ.

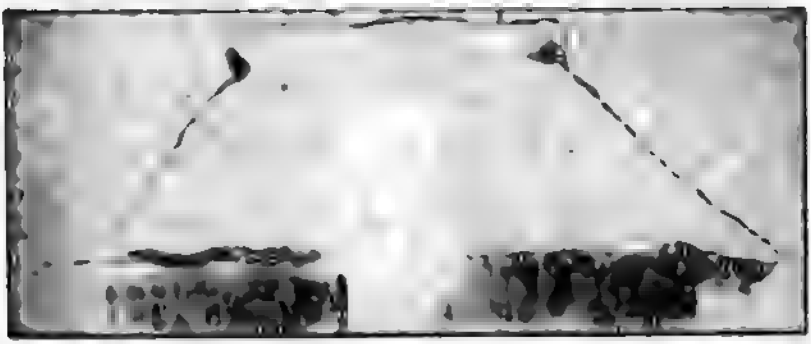
GRANNY ? YOU DON'T MIND GOING LAST?
NYEH HEH HEH!
LASTEST IS *BESTEST*, SWEETIE IFFEN HE KILLS 'EM, WE TAKE ON A *WEARY MAN*
'N IFFEN THEY *WIN*
WE JEST OFF *THEM!*

SEE? THEY'LL BE WORE TO A FRAZZLE, TOO! NYEH HEH!!
DAMN. HERE COMES TH' SNOW.
AH HATES TH' COLD.





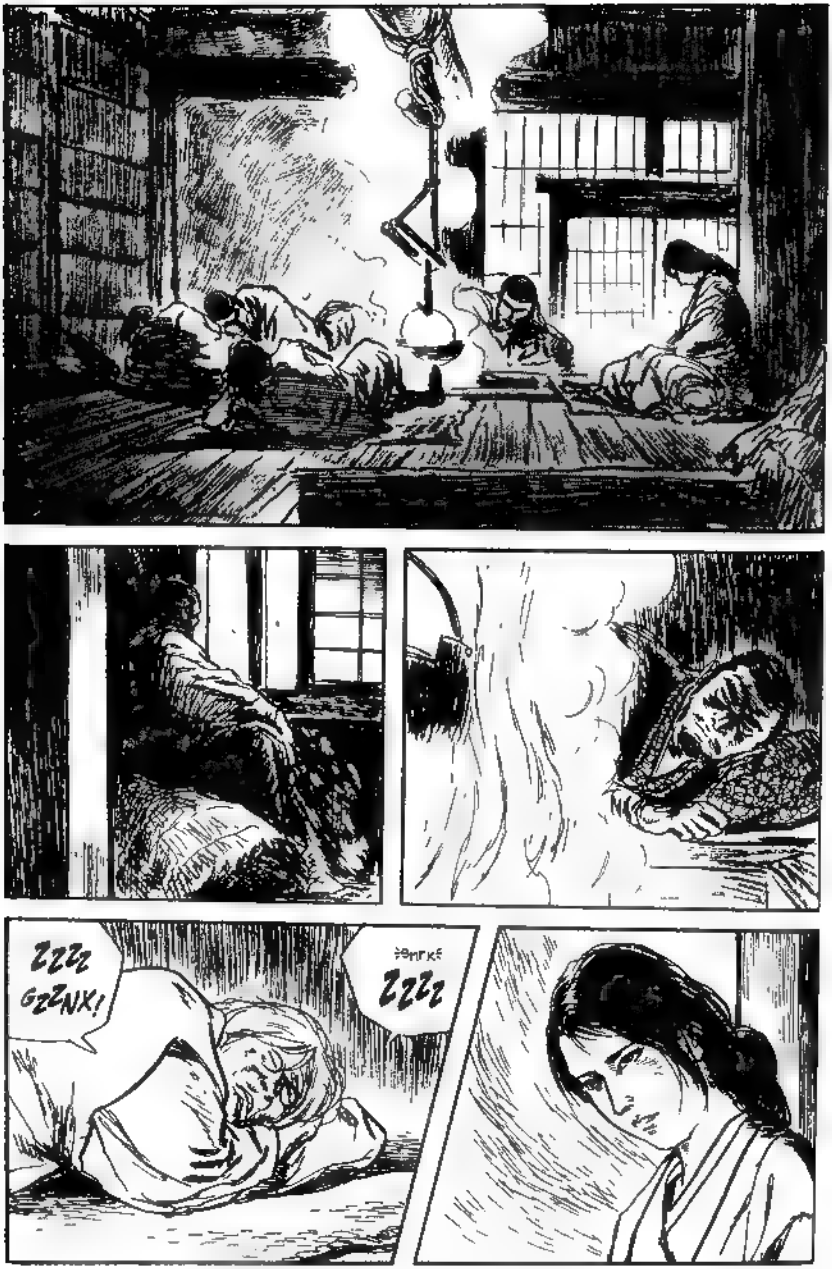




KRAK
WANT SOME ?
NO, THANKS.
WHSHAK
KCHAK

'N YOU SANKAI GENTS..?
NO ALCOHOL BEFORE WORK.
NYEH HEH, HEH! SUCH SERIOUS YOUNG 'UNS Y'ALL ARE!
SULRP
HEH. YER THET AFRAID A' THE WOLF?
YES. I'M AFRAID
BUT NOT OF HIS FABLED SUIŌ-RYŪ. I'M AFRAID FIVE THOUSAND RYŌ WILL WEIGH DOWN MY HANDS WHEN I NEED THEM MOST
FIVE THOUSAND RYŌ. ENOUGH TO WASH OUR HANDS OF ALL THIS AND BASK IN LUXURY FOR LIFE. WITH CHANGE LEFT OVER

I'M AFRAID, TOO— THAT I'M EVEN HAVING SUCH THOUGHTS
AFRAID MY HUNGER TO FEEL THAT GOLD ON MY PALMS WILL MAKE ME RUSH MY ATTACK.
NYEH HEH HEH!
THET AIN'T NO WORRY A' MINE. THESE OL' BONES WON'T LAST T' SPEND FIFTY RYŌ O' IT!
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE. ?
HMM. PERHAPS YOUR LIFE IS SHORT
BUT YOUR DAUGHTERS? YOUR GRAND-CHILDREN?
HUH. I'LL WAGER YOU'RE MORE SCARED THAN ALL OF US. OLD LADY. SO LITTLE TIME BEFORE YOU DIE!
SHLRRP


ZZZZ
GZZNX!
ZZZZ

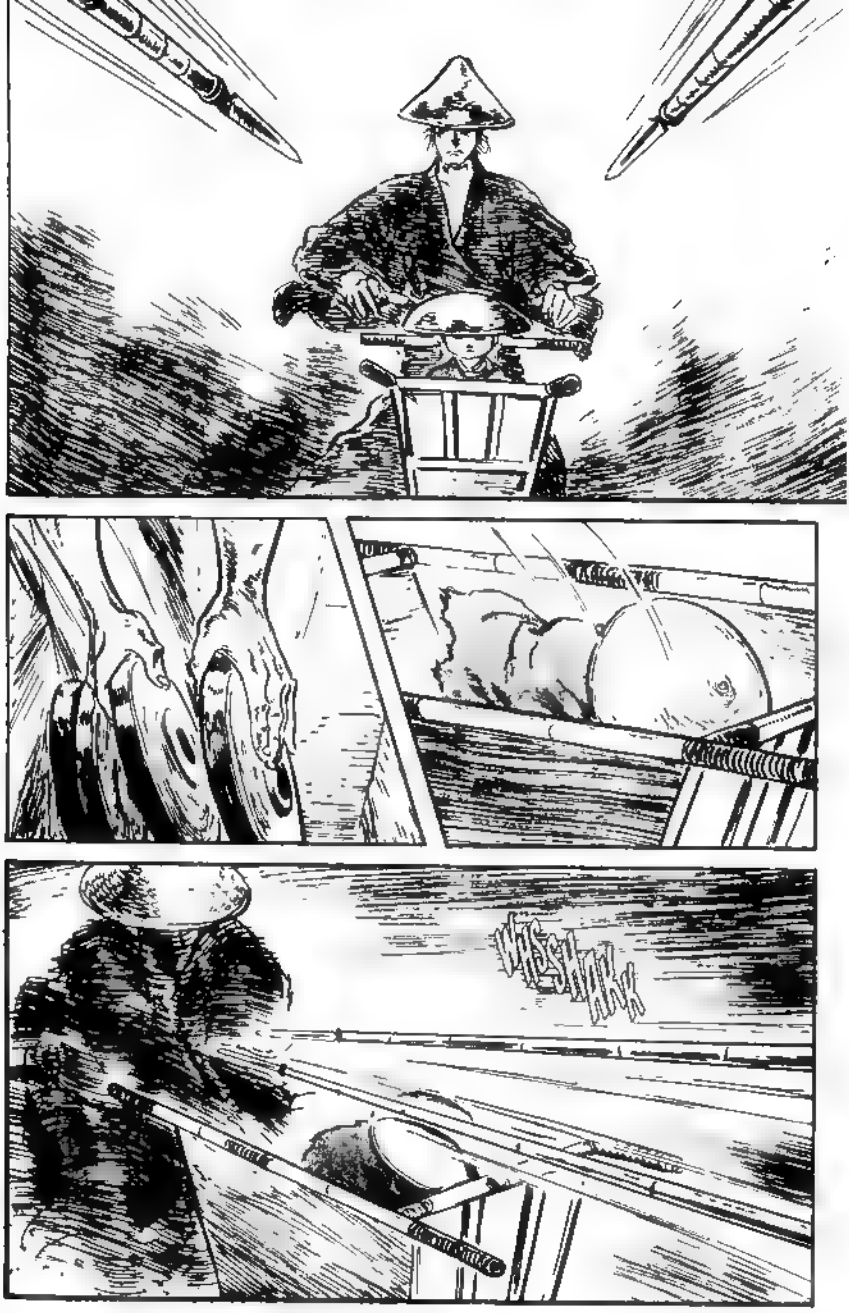
SNZZZ GZZK!
SNZZ...
HEY, GRANNY! CUT THE SNORING.
IT'S SO FAKE IT'S KEEPING US UP LAUGHING!
WE'RE ALL BOUNTY HUNTERS HERE. WE DON'T NEED TO ACT TOUGH. OR PRETEND WE CAN SLEEP LIKE A BABY
KEH. AND YOU, Y' BIG-SHOT BOUNTY DEMONS, SHAKIN' LIKE LI'L SPARROWS! CAIN'T SLEEP A WINK, KIN YER?
IT'S THAT MOUNTAIN OF GOLD, GRANNY FOR YOU, TOO.

HNG!
IS IT THEM?!
WAIT! IF WE JUST RUSH OUT, THE GLARE OFF THE SNOW WILL BLIND US! ADAPT YOUR EYES FIRST!

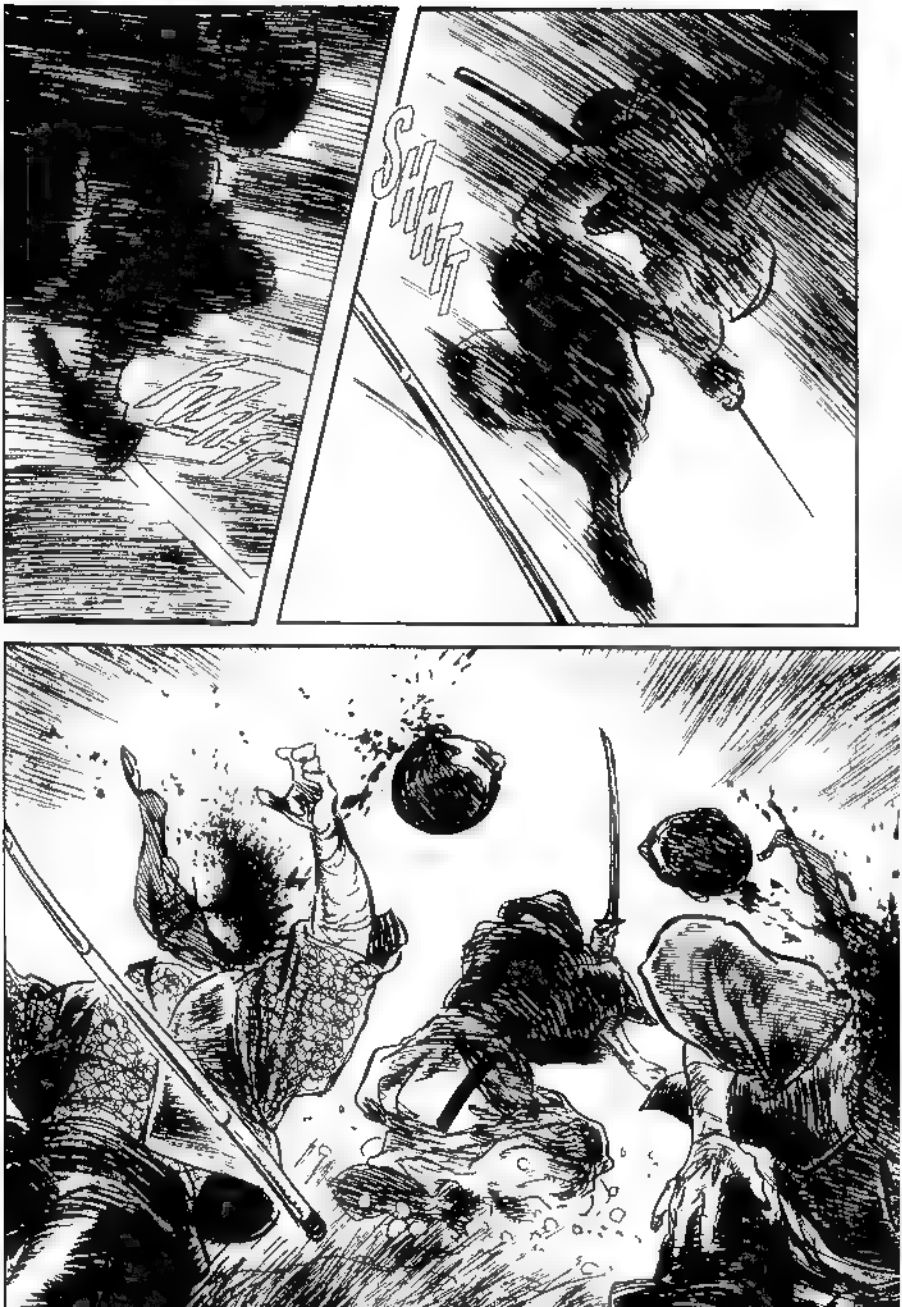
SHSSSS

KSHAKK

L-LONE WOLF AND CUB?!
THAT FIVE THOUSAND RYŌ HEAD BELONGS TO THE SENDŌ BROTHERS!
MAK



THOK THOK

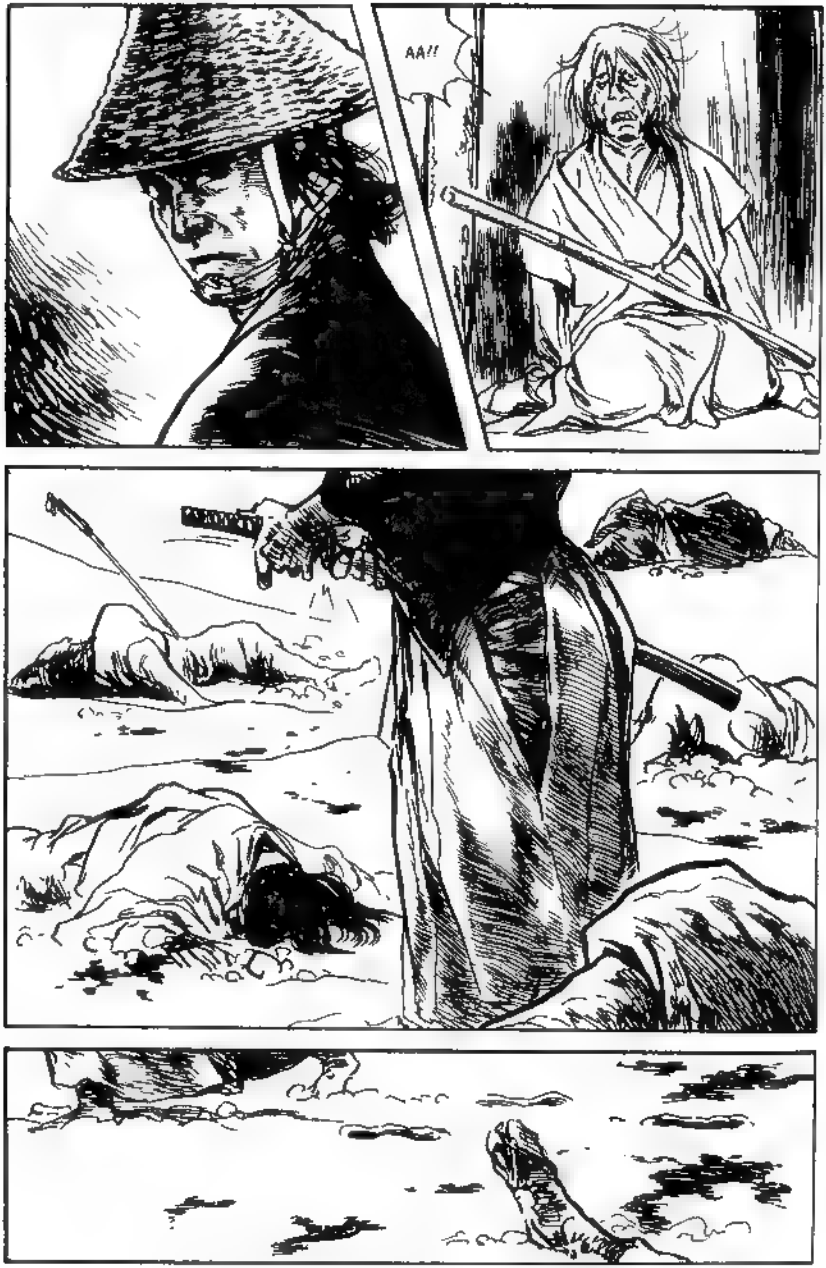

SHIFT

RYAAAAAA!
SKSSHH

N-NOW, CHIYO!
SNATCH THE BOY!
FWD
FWD
FWD

AUGHK!

THAP
SHING
KYAHH!


AA!!

LIKE.. LIKE.. CRUSHIN' BUGS.. BUGS WHAT CA.N'T EVEN TOUCH 'IM!
LORDY, MY LORDY!!
NOT EVEN A WOLF.
BUT. BUT THEM BUGS. HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS OF 'EM TOGETHER.
THE BUGS'LL COME CRAWLIN' FOR THAT FIVE THOUSAND! WHERE'ER YE GO! PEASANTS! TOWNIES! CRAZED BY GOLD! HUNTIN' THE WOLF!
AN' THEY'LL CATCH YE! I SWEARS IT!

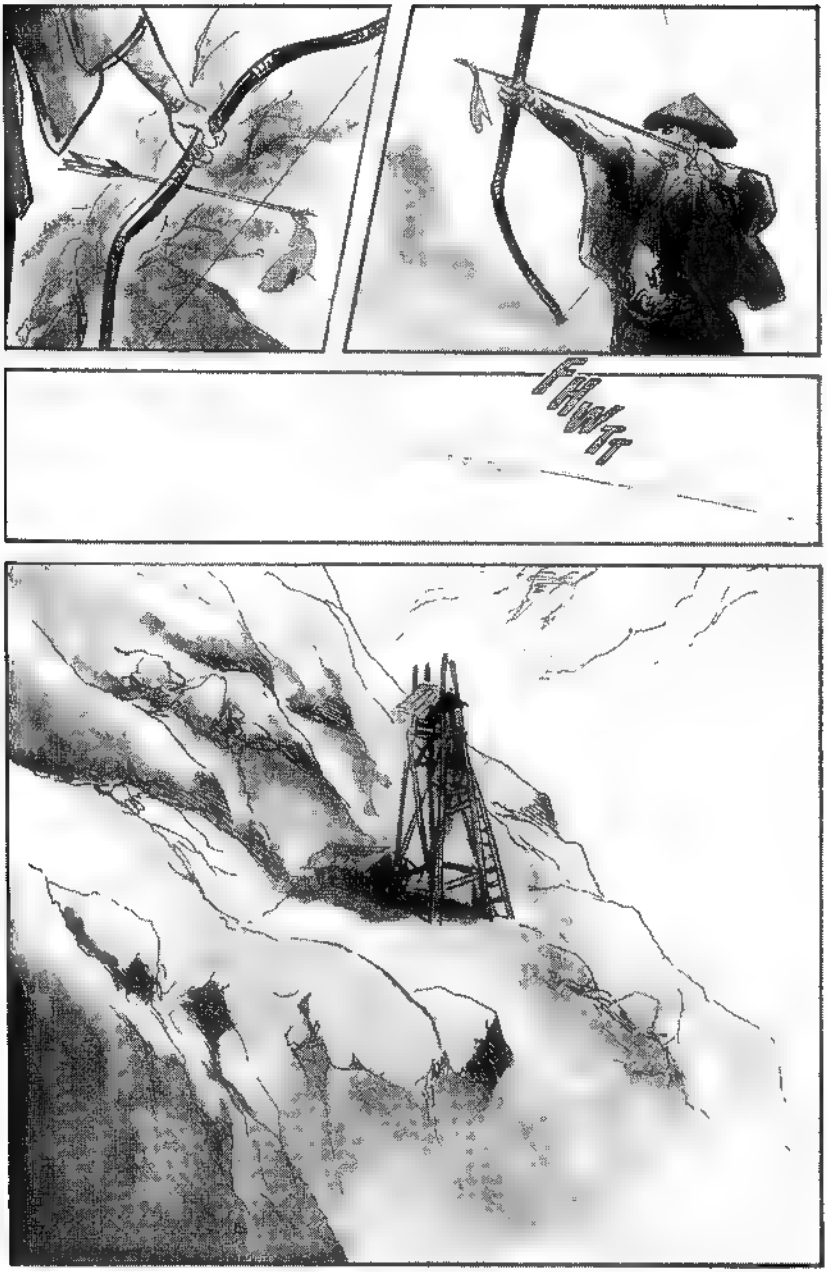
AHGK. ?!
HKK—!!

#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
Lone Wolf and Cub

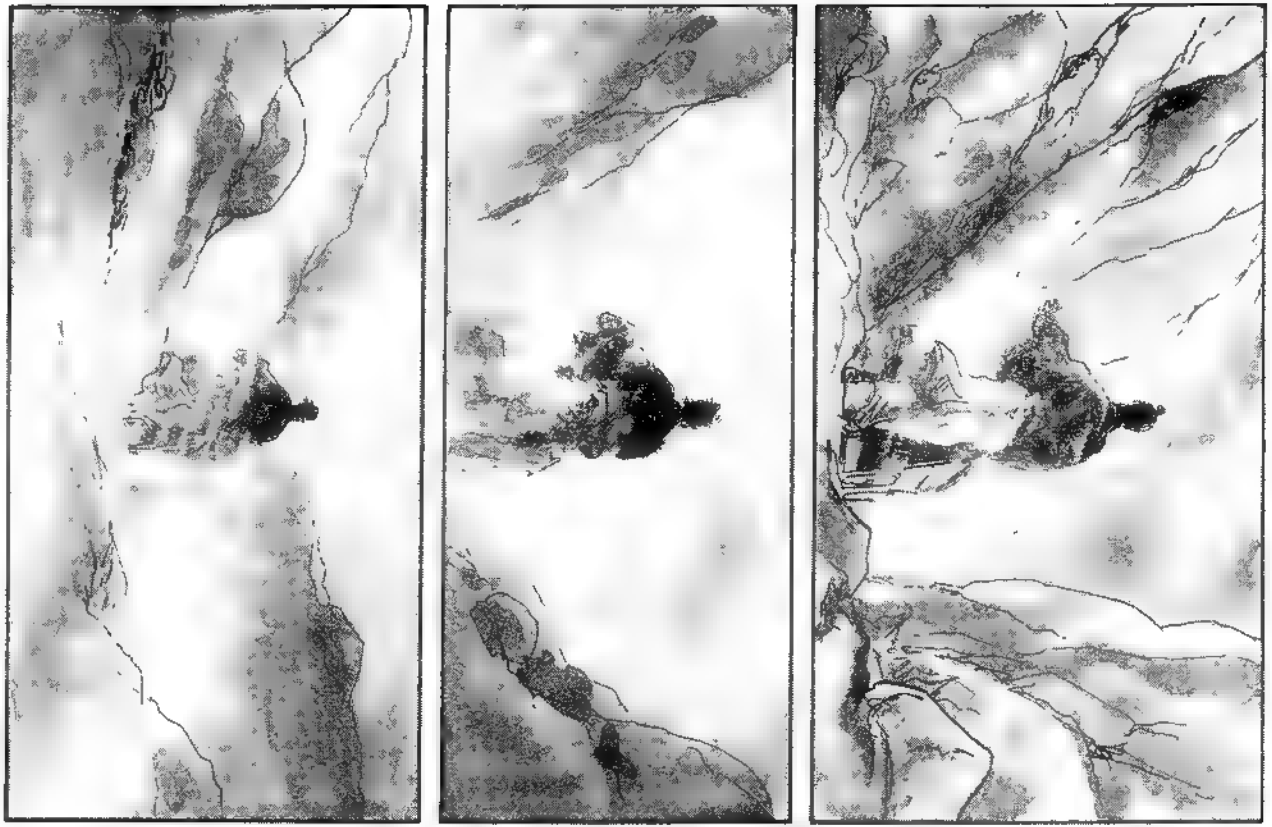
the eighty-fifth

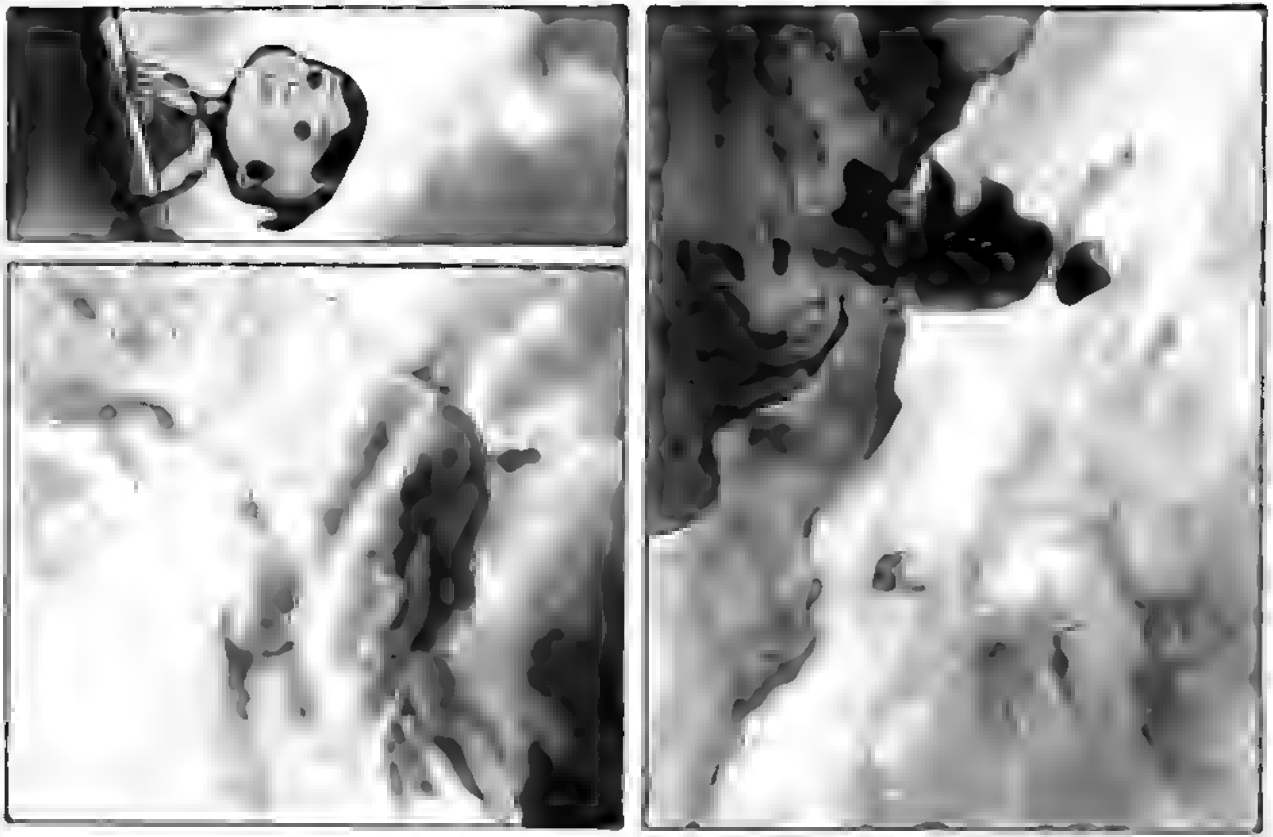
The Will of the Fang

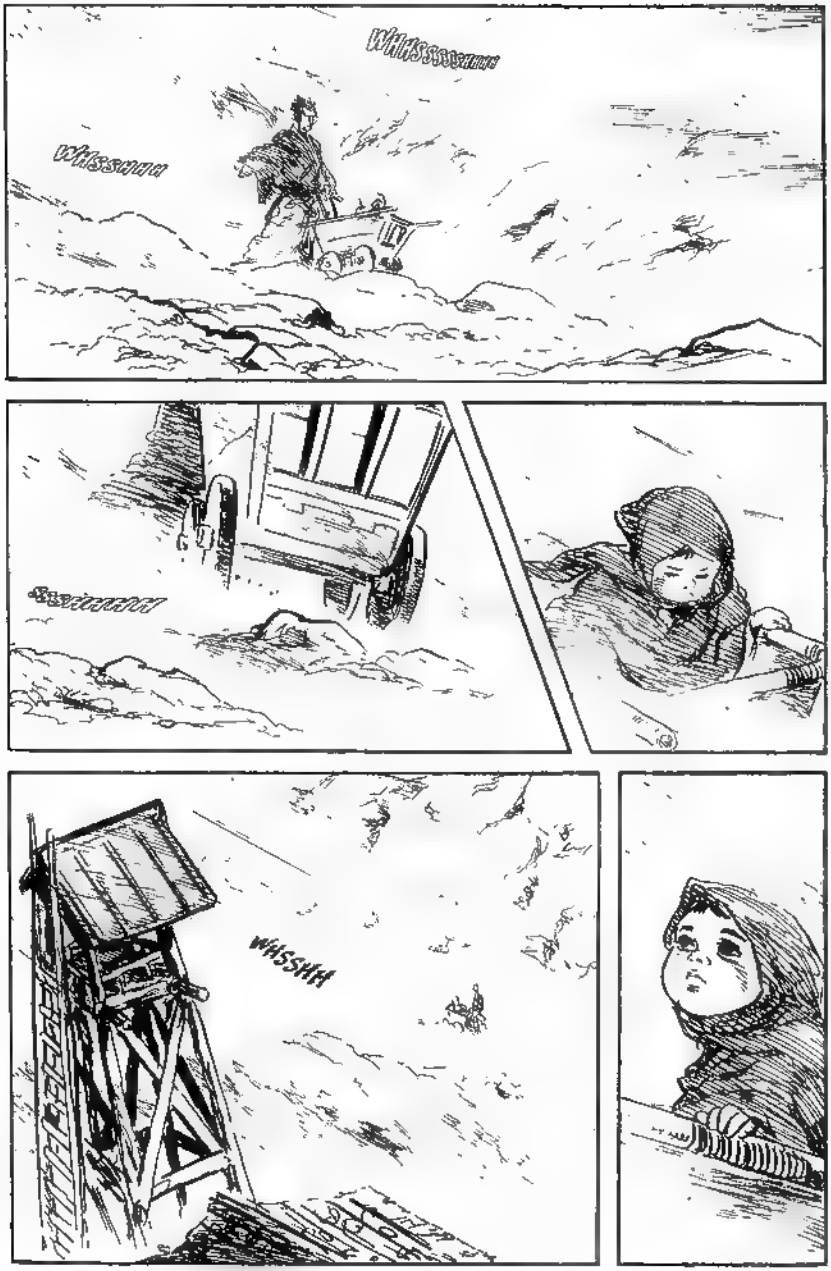
BORDERS OF
KAMIFUSA
SANJUKI


FRUIT

KTCH
IT'S HIM! LONE WOLF AND CUB!






WHHSSSSSHHHH
WHHSSHHH
SSSHHHHH
WHSSHH

WHSSSHH

I AM YAMADA IHOE OF THE SANUKI HAN BORDER GUARDS!
I MUST ASK YOUR NAME!
OGAMI ITTŌ, WANDERING SAMURAI! MY SON, DAIGORO!
I ASK FURTHER. ARE YOU HE KNOWN AS LONE WOLF AND CUB?
I AM.
I STAND UPON SANUKI HAN SOIL. I FORBID YOU TO CROSS THIS LINE.
YOU MUST TURN BACK!

I AM CERTAIN I NEED NOT SAY WHY
FATHER AND SON, WE LIVE IN MEIFUMADŌ, ON THE BORDER OF THE SIX WAYS AND THE FOUR LIVES. THERE IS NO ROAD BACK.
IF YOU INSIST, SO BE IT
THEN SANUKI HAN MUST TAKE YOUR HEAD, AND DELIVER IT TO THE YAGYŪ IS THIS CLEAR. ?
I THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARNING.

WE HAVE NO QUARREL WITH SANJŪKI HAN.
YET FOR OUR QUEST, WE ABANDON THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI, THE WAY OF MAN. FORGIVE US.
THEN, A MESSAGE FROM MY LORD, SURUGA-NO-KAMI.
"I FEAR THAT OGAMI ITTŌ WILL NOT TURN BACK. THEN TELL HIM THIS, FOR ME—
"—I AM THE LORD OF THE SIXTEEN THOUSAND KOKU HAN OF SANJŪKI. I WILL DO ALL TO PROTECT MY RETAINERS, MY PEOPLE, AND MY HAN
"I MUST ABANDON OLD FRIENDSHIP AND BECOME A DEMON TO KILL OGAMI ITTŌ.
"FORGIVE ME."
AND HE..

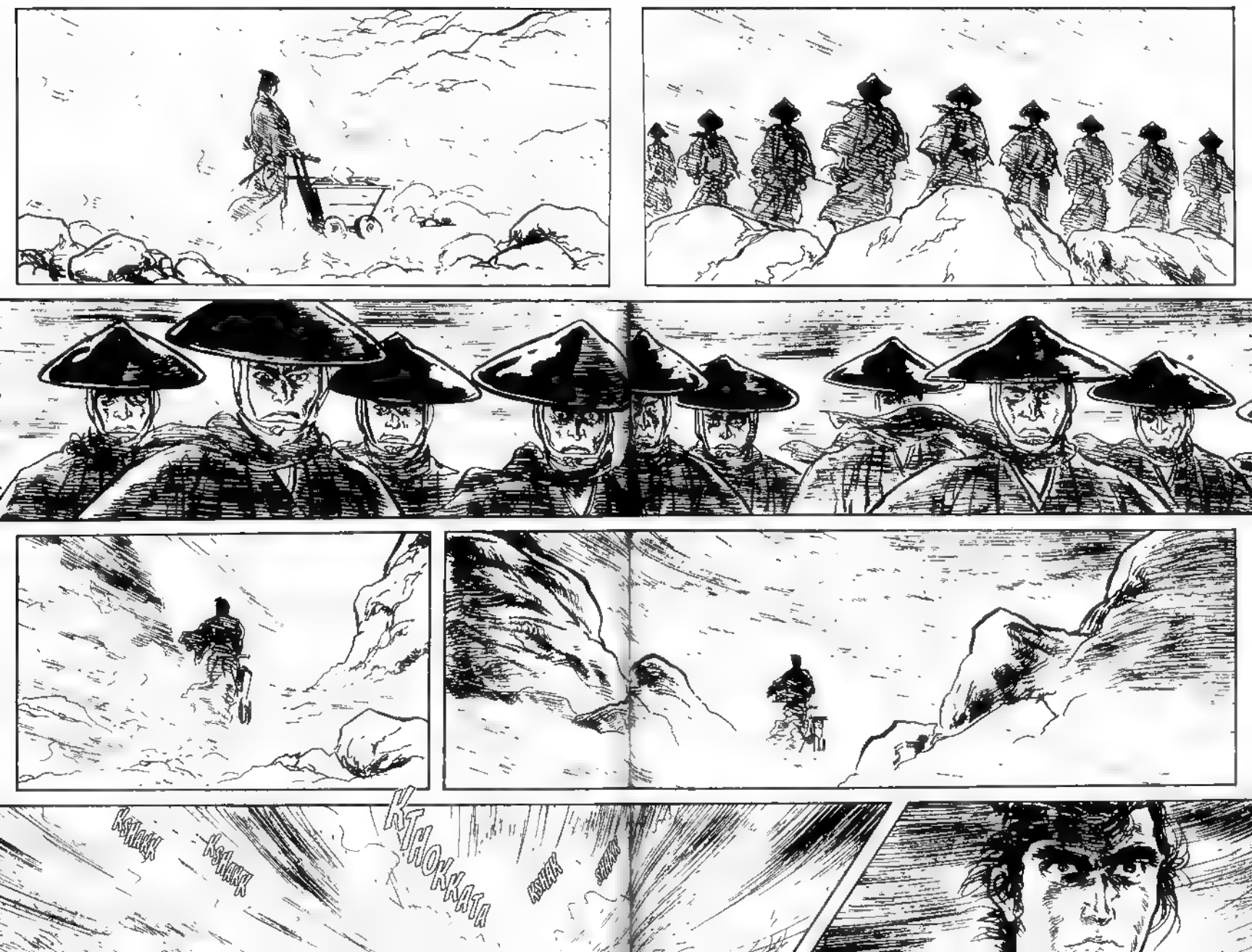
I DEFEND THE BORDER. KILL ME IF YOU WOULD PASS.
SKSH

WHISSSSSHHHH

WHISSSSSSSHHH

SLCH
SKSST

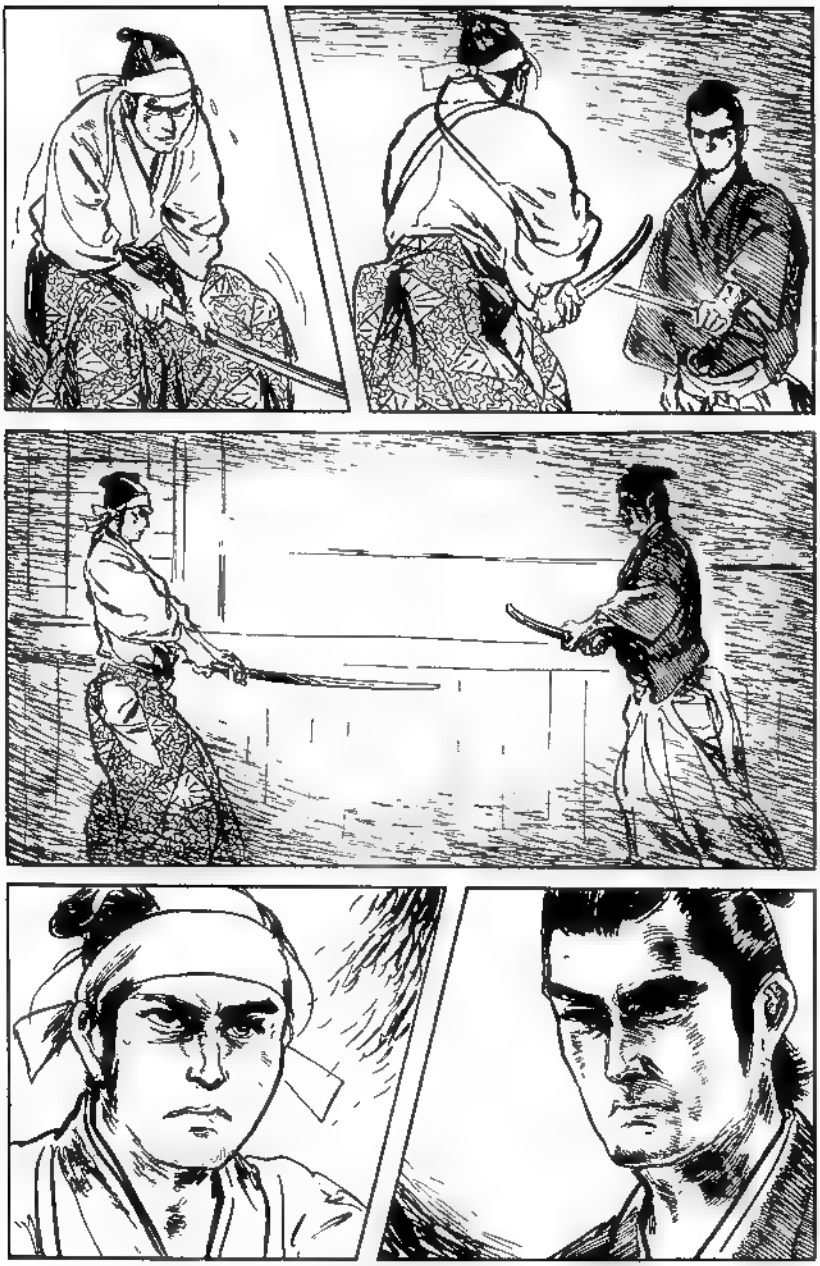
THE COUP DE GRACE.
AS YOU WISH.


KSHAAK
KSHAAK
KTIOKKATA
KSHAK
SHAAK

ITTŌ...
MASATSUNE DONO.
WHHSSSSSHHHH

RYAHHHH
NNK!
NOW. ATTACK ME AGAIN

KTHOO
KNG!
COME, MASATSUNE-DONO!
NGG. NFF!
YOU MUST DO BETTER IF YOU WISH TO BE SUIÖ-RYÜ!
TRY AGAIN!



WHHSSSSSHHH
ITTŌ! SANUKI HAN DOES NOT RIDE AGAINST LONE WOLF AND CUB, ASSASSIN!
WE RIDE AGAINST OGAMI ITTŌ, WARRIOR!
AND THUS WE SORTIE IN FULL BATTLE ARMOR THE LEAST I CAN DO...

TO HONOR MY OLD TEACHER
MY THANKS
WE HAVE CUT OFF YOUR RETREAT
IT IS A WARRIOR'S PRIDE TO DIE IN BATTLE.
GLORY BEYOND MY STATION.

WARRIORS OF SANUKI HAN, ADVANCE!

KSHAAA
KSHAAA
KSHAAA

WHOD
WHOD
MEN! REMEMBER THE ARTICLES OF WAR! YOUR OPPONENT IS A FAMOUS WARRIOR!
FIGHT FEARLESSLY! BUT DO NOT HARM THE CHILD! IT IS SHAMEFUL TO KILL WOMEN AND CHILDREN!
MY THANKS! BUT MY SON AND I GO TO MEIFUMADŌ TOGETHER!
SHOW NO MERCY!
KSHAKK
KSHAKK
KSHAKK
KSHAKK

KASHIINNGG
ATTACK!
SKSSH
DAISORO! WE ENTER MUFUMADO!
ONLY DEATH AWAITS US!
KSHAKK
KSHAKK
SHAKK

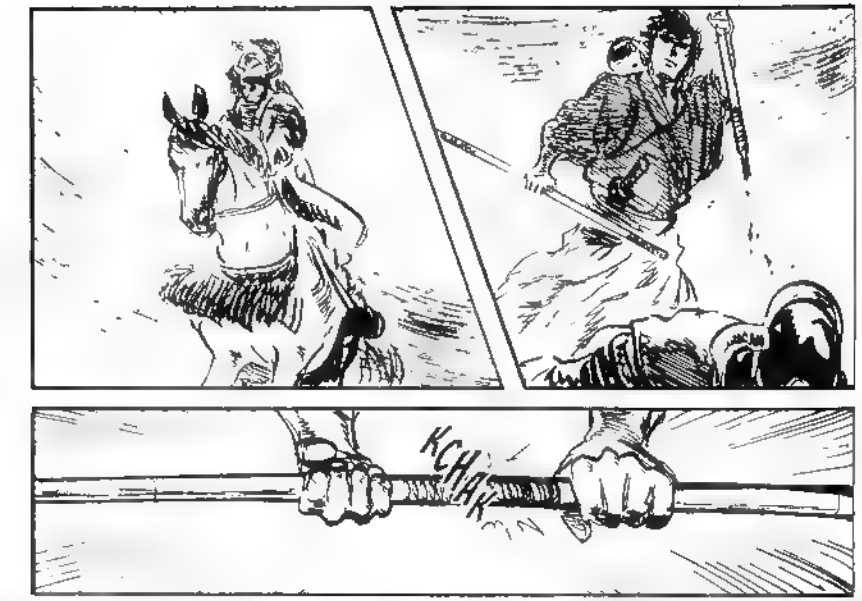
WHSSSH
FWHSS
SHAK
KSHAKK

WHSSHH
KCHOK
SKSSS

UHNK!
AUGH!

SPANG
GLCHH
HGK-!

GCHOK
THAT'S A DŌTANUKI BATTLE SWORD! SLICING IRON LIKE PAPER!
WHCHOK
INCREDIBLE CUTTING EDGE! MAGNIFICENT TECHNIQUE!

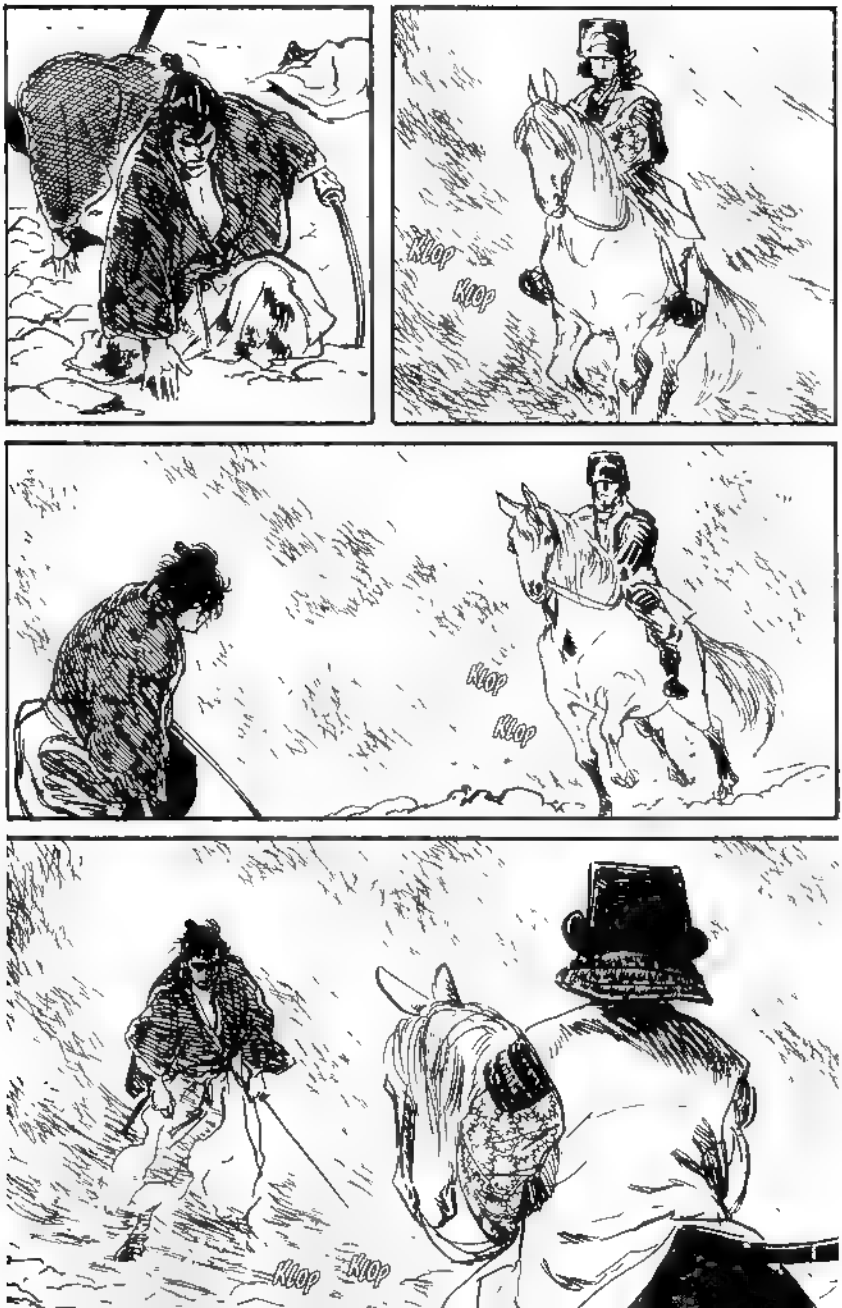

KCHAK

THOKKA
THOKKA
THOKKA

THOKKA
THOKKA
THOKKATJA
SKLCCH
WHSSHH
CHOK
KAPOK

HEEEEEHNN!
FWHDD
WDD
SHOKK
SHUKK
AAGHH!
HEEEHNN!
FWHUDD

FEAR IT! THE SUIKŌ ZANBATŌ STROKE!


KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP
KLOP

WHSSHHH
I SWORE I'D DO ANYTHING TO QUALIFY AS SUIO-RYŪ HERE IN EDO. BUT WITH MY FATHER'S SUDDEN DEATH
ITTŌ!
MY LORD!
IF YOU HAVE THE CHANCE VISIT ME IN SANUKI.
ONLY, PLEASE— NOT AS KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN!
HA HA HA!

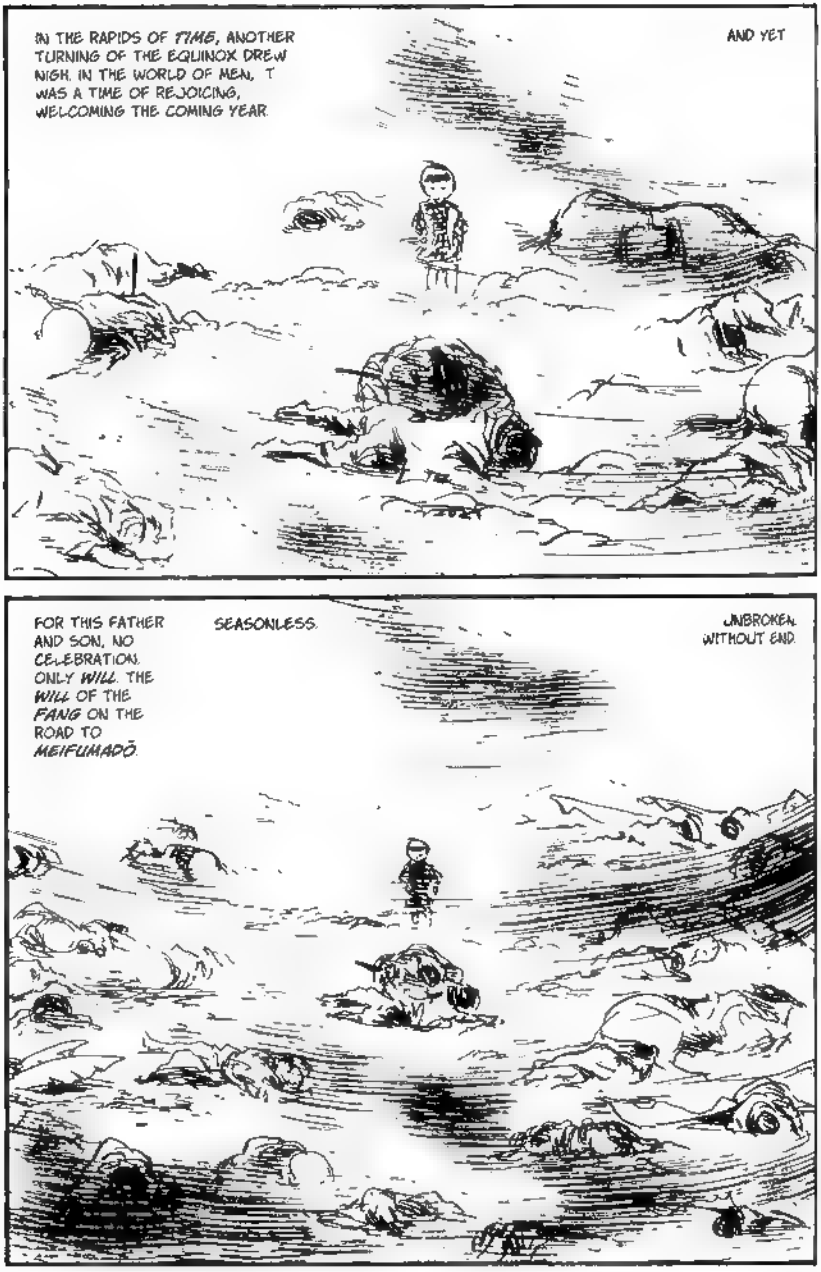
MOVE OUT!

THOKKA

YOUR BREATH AND TIMING— A PERFECT WAVE-SLICING STROKE!
IN WATER, YOUR VICTORY! I NAME YOU SUIIŌ-RYŪ!

SOON.
. I RUN THE RAPIDS OF TIME. A MAN'S LIFE, LIKE THE FROTHING WATERS.. RISING HIGH, FALLING LOW ALL. VANITY
KING. KHANG. . . . .

AAAAH!
HRK.
HNGG.
AHJH.
SNFF
A PARENT'S TEARS, PASSED ON TO HIS CHILD PLAYTHINGS OF DESTINY, THIS FATHER AND SON HOWLED OUT THEIR SORROW TO THE PITILESS WASTELAND
THE R SCREAM, WRENCHED DEEP FROM THEIR SOULS, THE SCREAM OF BLOOD


IN THE RAPIDS OF *TIME*, ANOTHER TURNING OF THE EQUINOX DREW NIGH. IN THE WORLD OF MEN, T WAS A TIME OF REJOICING, WELCOMING THE COMING YEAR.
AND YET
FOR THIS FATHER AND SON, NO CELEBRATION. ONLY *WILL*. THE *WILL* OF THE *FANG* ON THE ROAD TO *MEIFUMADŌ*.
SEASONLESS.
UNBROKEN. WITHOUT END.

#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
Lone Wolf and Cub

the eighty-sixth

When the Wolf Comes...

HEY..!
HO!
THUMP
THUMP

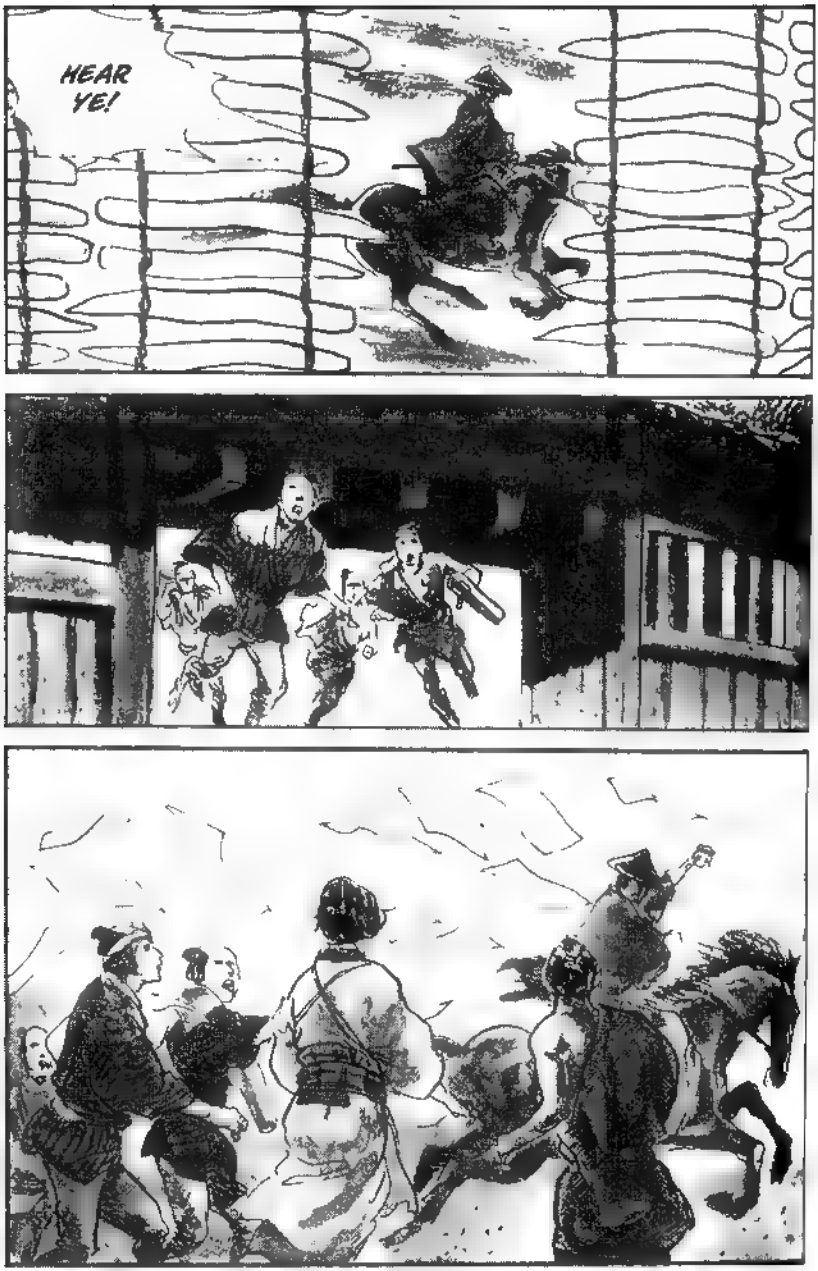
YEAH YO! MAKES YOU SAY!
HEY HO!

HEY HO!
KTHMP
KTHMP
KTHMP
SAKE!
YO!
MAKES
YOU
FEISTY!
HEY
HO!
KTHMP
RISE
SAKE'N
YO!
COOP FOR
FERMENTATION

HEY HO!
THDD
KTHDD
THDD
YOHH!
HEY HO!
KTHMP
SAKE'S A BUDDHA!
MAKES YOU TIPSY!

BOY
HAHAH!
CAKES
ARE
GODS!
BRING
YOU
FORTUNE!
HEY
HO!
WHAMP

HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!
TO ARMS!
HEAR YE!


HEAR YE!

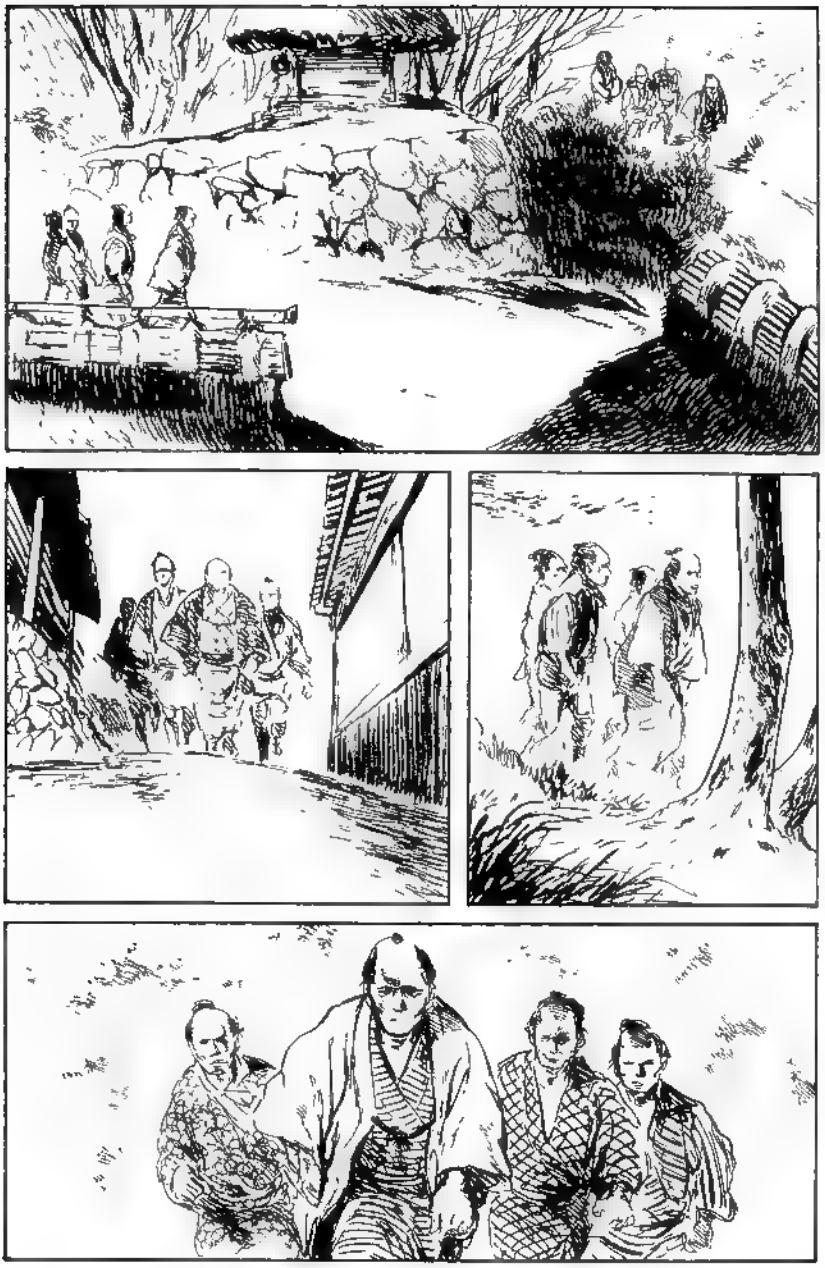
手配触書
子連水狼尋
兄弟殺御借人拝一刀
並二一子
大五郎
右之者御公儀手配
大罪人ニテテ
捕縛シタル者ニハ
其ノ生死ヲ問ハス
金五千壱百両
居所ヲ訴出者ニ
銀三十枚ヲ下シ
置ク
尚右之者ヲ匿ヒ又ハ
衣食物品ヲ与ヘタル者
WANTED: LONE WOLF AND CUB OGAMI ITTŌ, FORMER KŌGI KAISHAKUNIN, AND SON. DAIGORO REWARD: FIVE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED RYŌ (FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO CAPTURE, THIRTY SILVER PIECES.) SHELTER OR CONCEALMENT, SUPPLY OF FOOD, CLOTHING, OR ANY OTHER ASSISTANCE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH.
TŌGŌ DAIKAN
INA BIZEN-NO-KAMI

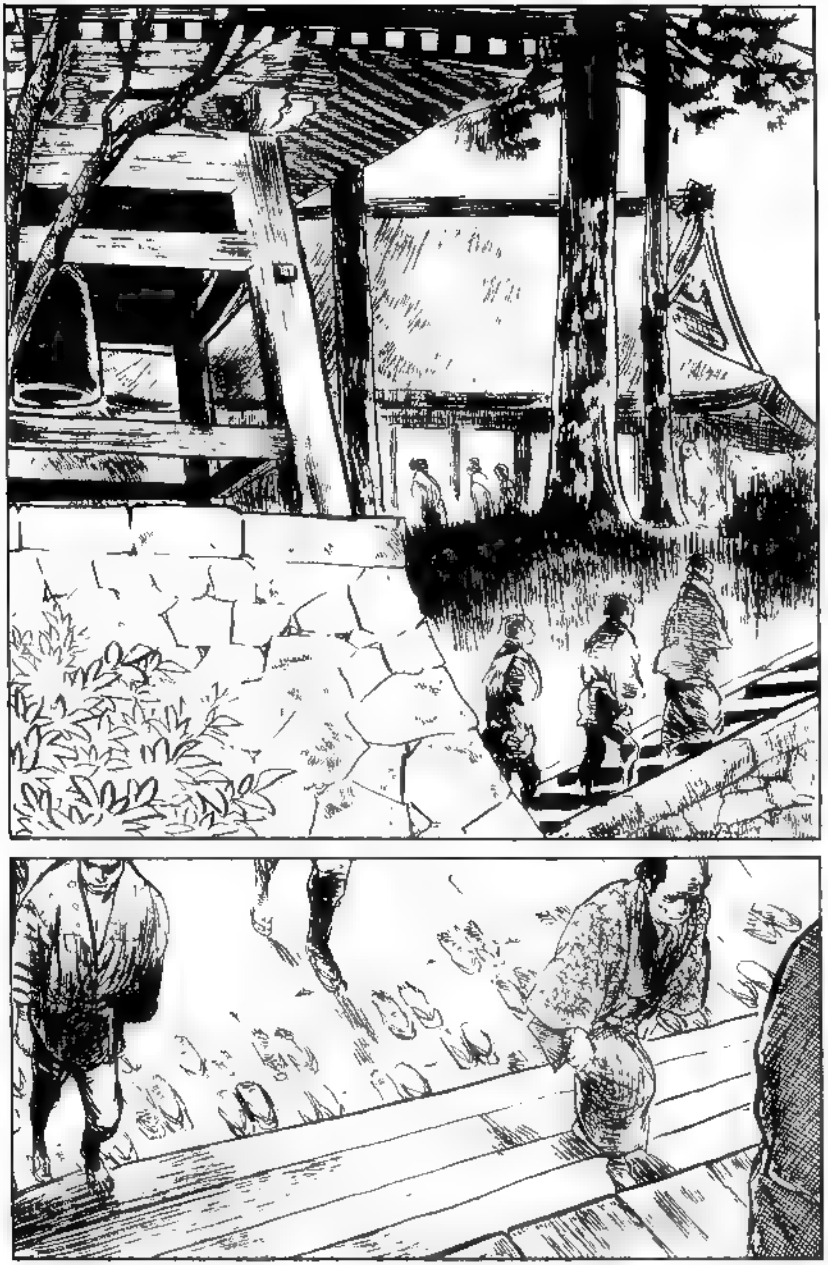
SHŌYA-SAMA! WHAT—
LET ME SEE.
IT'S A WANTED FLYER FOR LONE WOLF AND CUB.
G-GOOD GOD!!
FIVE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED... RYŌ?!
FER WHAT, SHŌYA-SAMA?
FOR BRINGING HIM IN, DEAD OR ALIVE.
FIVE THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED RYŌ!
WHAT?!
WHERE'S THE-T ?
FIVE...FIVE THOUSAND?!
LORDY!

FER NABBIN' THIS GUY 'N' HIS KID...?
F-F-FIVE-THOUSAND!!
AND THIRTY IN SILVER JUST FOR REPORTING HIM.
HOLD ON "SHELTERING, CONCEALING FOOD AND CLOTHING. DEATH" ?! GOOD GOD!
WHAT'RE WE WAITIN' FER?!
MOSAKU! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
I'M GETTIN' MAH SCYTHE!
IF I KIN' CHOP 'IM, I GITS ME FIVE THOUSAND!
IT'S MONEY OFF A TREE WITH THE HARVEST SO BAD!
WE COULD SHORE USE IT!
IF THE LAW'S IN A TIZZY
HE'S GOTTA BE CLOSE!

HOLD IT! HOLD IT!
EVERYONE JUST CALM DOWN!
BUT TIMES IS SO BAD, SHŌYA-SAMA! MOST YEARS WE GOT RICE FER TWELVE FAT MOCHI! AN' THIS YEAR— SIX!
WITH ALL THET GOLD, NEXT YEAR'D BE PARADISE!
THE VILLAGES KIN KETCH THEIR BREATH EVEN TWO BREATHS! HECK, A HUNNERD BREATHS!
AN' IT'S SIMPLE! JEST GANG UP'N GIT 'EM!
DURN GOOD IDEA!
AH'M IN! ME!
I SAID WAIT! IT'S THE INFAMOUS LONE WOLF AND CUB!
TWENTY, THIRTY MEN CAN'T DO IT! WE NEED TO MOBILIZE ALL TWENTY-SIX VILLAGES OF TŌGŌ!

CALL THE VILLAGE HEADMEN!
EVERY SECOND COUNTS!





LISTEN WELL! FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED RYŌ COVERS OUR TAXES FOR A WHOLE YEAR
THINK ABOUT IT. WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO PAY A SINGLE COPPER!

INCREDIBLE!
WE GOTTA KILL THAT WOLF GUY!
I WONDER WHERE'S HE GOT TO?
FOLK SAY HE'S CLOSE MEBBE ANY DAY
THE RUMORS SAY HE'S BOUND FER EDO HE'S GOTTA COME THROUGH.

RIGHT! WE'LL SPLIT UP AN' TRACK 'IM DOWN!
I'LL GIT MY BOYS AN'-
NOT SO FAST!
YOU WANT TO GET US ALL KILLED?!

LONE WOLF'S A DANGEROUS MURDERER! EVEN THE LAW CAN'T TOUCH HIM!
HE'S A HARDENED ASSASSIN! HE'S KILLED THOUSANDS WITHOUT A SCRATCH!
IF WE HUNT THIS WOLF, SURELY SOME OF US WILL DIE.
I WANT THE GOLD, TOO! SO MUCH I CAN TASTE IT!
BUT IS IT WORTH DYING FOR...?
THEN. THEN WHAT DO WE DO?
WE AREN'T SAMURAI! WE'RE NOT THE LAW WE'RE UNTRAINED PEASANTS
IF WE TRY TO USE SWORDS AND SPEARS. IT'S HOPELESS

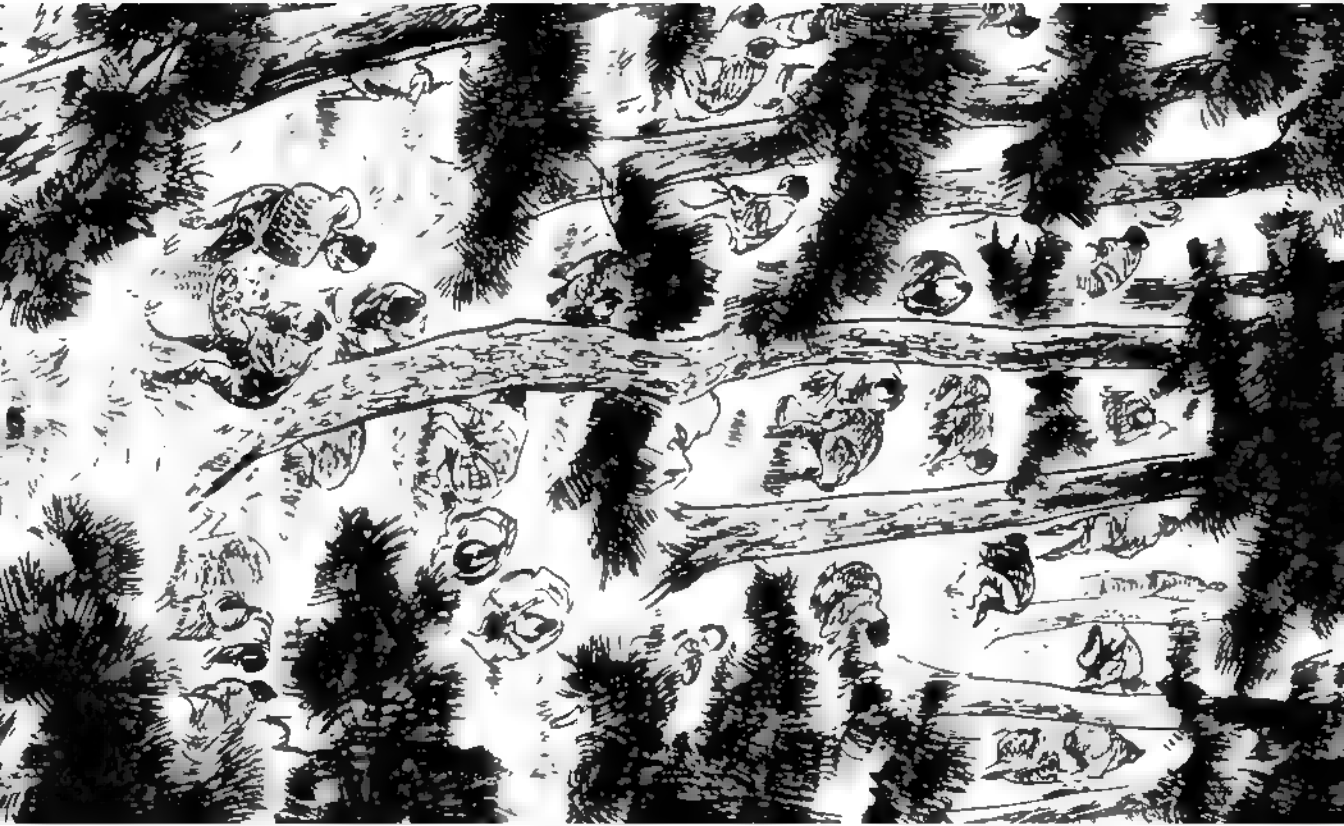
BUT WE JUST NEED TO KILL HIM— PERIOD! COWARDLY, SNEAKY TRICKS WHO CARES?
WE'RE PEASANTS! AND WE'LL FIGHT LIKE PEASANTS, WITH TOOLS AND SKILLS WE KNOW!
BUT HOW ?
WELL, FIRE IS AN OPTION.
LURE HIM INTO A DRY FIELD, SET FIRES ON ALL SIDES.
AH! NOW I GETS IT!
OR IF THAT'S NO GOOD MAYBE A BOOBY TRAP!
BUT WHAT IF HE FIGGERS IT OUT?
THAT'S THE RUB!
WE NEED IDEAS! SPEAK UP! ANYONE!
DIG A PIT, FILL IT WITH SHARPENED BAMBOO STAKES, COVER IT UP
HRMM.

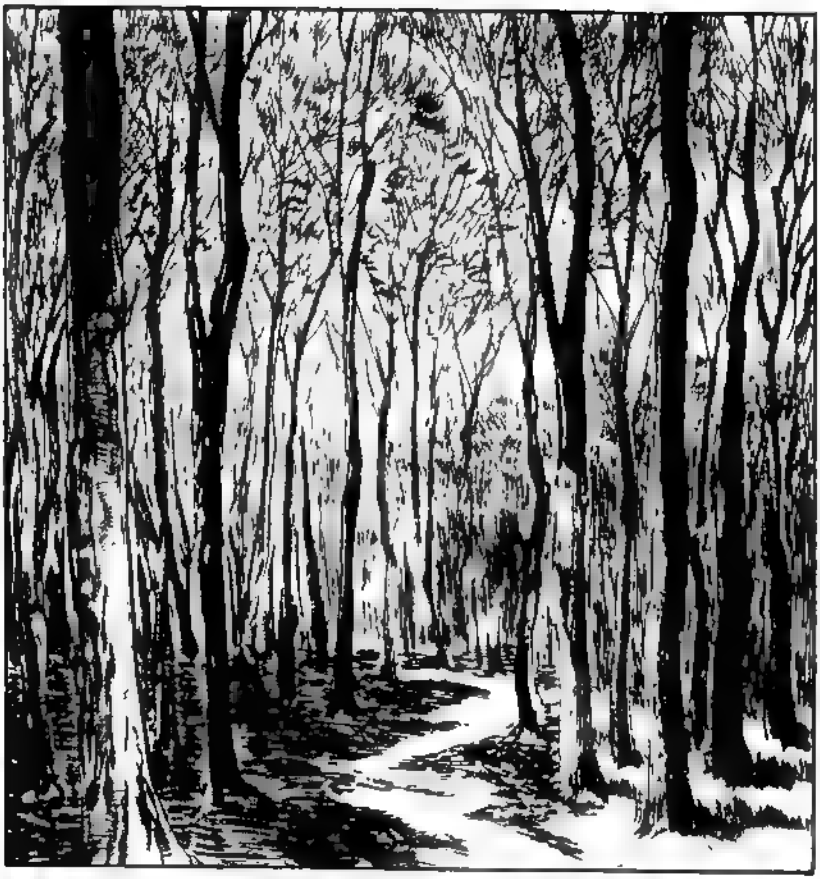
FIRE'S BEST, DAMN SURE QUICK, EASY, N' HARD T' GET AWAY!
IF THE WIND SHIFTS? THEN WHAT?!
OR WHAT IF IT'S RAINING WHEN HE GITS HERE?
HMM.
THEN LET'S DIG THET HOLE ON TH' ROAD!
DOLT! WHAT IF HE TAKES A DIFFERENT PATH?!
WHY DON'T YOU GO GIVE HIM A MAP!
MAYBE DIG LOTSA' HOLES. ?
NO TIME!
WE KIN KIDNAP HIS BOY!
EVER SEE A WOLF WHEN IT'S CUB GITS HURT?! IT'LL STAY PUT AN' FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
YEAH! THEN THROW STONES AND BAMBOO SPEARS!!
AN' IF HE CHARGES WITH HIS CHOPPER ?

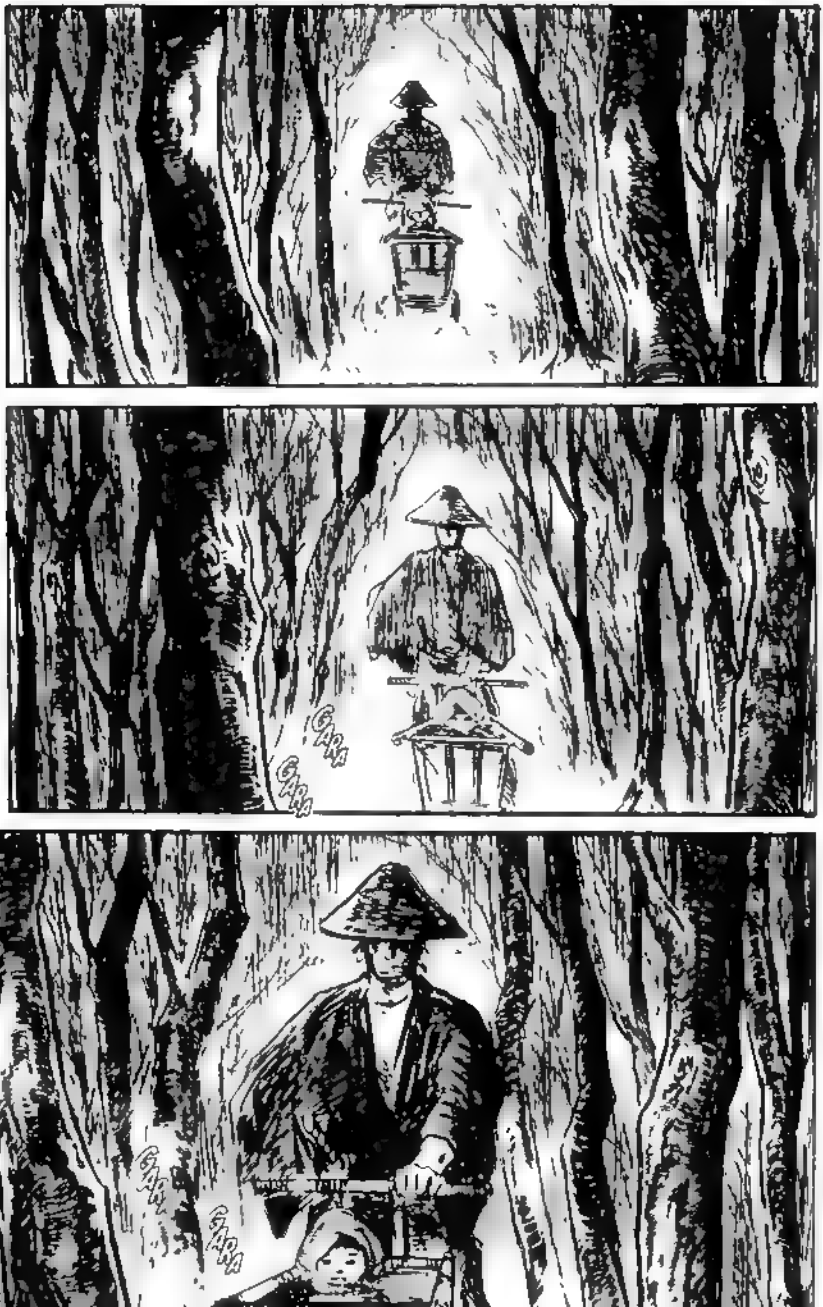
ERMM.. WHAT T' DO
AIN'T THERE ANY GOOD IDEAS. ?
THERE IS!
WE'LL COLLECT PINE CONES! TENS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM!
A HUNDRED APIECE, TEN THOUSAND IN NO TIME!
KUH? WHAT TH' HECK FOR?!
THINK! WE USE PINE CONES FOR TINDER BECAUSE THEY BURN LIKE OIL—HOT AND FAST!

NOW I GITS IT!
IF WE SET A FIELD FIRE, WE'D HAVE TO LURE HIM INTO THE FIELD
AND WE'LL NEED BRUSH PILES TO GET IT GOING
BUT PINE CONES ARE PORTABLE—WE CAN EVEN THROW THEM! THE WIND DOESN'T MATTER. AND THE FIRE WON'T SPREAD
BECAUSE THEY FLARE UP, AND BURN OUT!
PERFECT! LET'S GIT THEM PINE CONES!

STEADY! STEADY! WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS!
EACH OF YOU PICK TWENTY QUICK MEN WITH GOOD EYES.
STATION THEM AT EVERY CROSSROADS.
HAVE THEM SIGNAL WITH CONCH SHELLS IF THEY SEE HIM!
HE'S OUR GOLDEN WOLF!
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!







BUOOOHHHH
BUOHHH
BUOOOHHHH
BUOOOHHHH

BUOOHHHH
BUOOOHHHH

BUOOOHHH
BUOOOHHHH

BUOOOHHHH
BUUOOOOHHHHH

HE'S CLEARED TENJIN WOODS!
HE'S ALMOST *HERE!*
UNDERSTAND? *FIVE THOUSAND RYŌ!* DON'T SLIP UP!
WHEN I GIVE THE *SIGNAL*, THROW THE CONES!
THEN *TORCHES!* DON'T FLINCH AT THE FLAMES! PILE IT ON UNTIL THEY'RE *DEAD*
WE MUST BUILD A *MOUNTAIN* OF PINE CONES!
BOOOHHH
NOW *SPREAD* OUT! *HIDE!*

TORCH BEARERS, STAY BEHIND TREES.

GAIRA
GAIRA

BAD NEWS!!
THE LAW'S COMIN'!
'N THEY GOT GUNS!
W-WHAT?!
FIFTY OF 'EM, EASY!
DAMN!
WHAT NOW ?
IF THE LAW GITS 'IM, AN OUR WORK

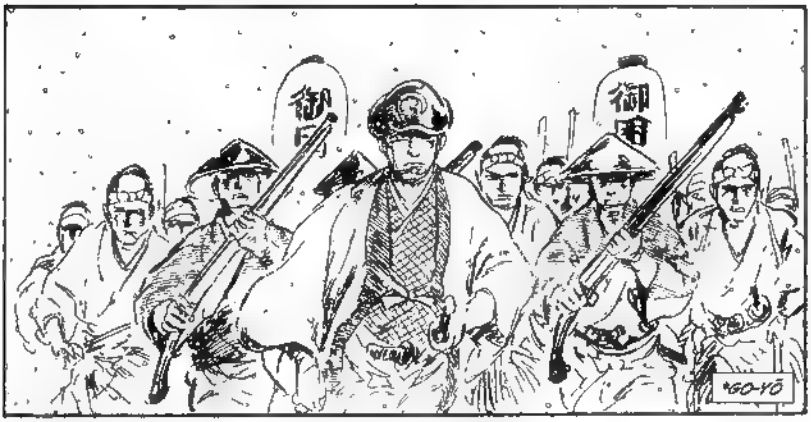
ROBBED! LIKE A HAWK SNATCHIN' OUR KILL!
SO WHADDA WE DOP WE KIN'T FIGHT THE LAW!
IT'S OUR GOLD! THEY KIN'T HAVE IT!
WE'LL, WE'LL HIDE HIM!
WHAT?!
WE'LL SHELTER LONE WOLF!
HIDE 'IM? 'N' THEN WHAT?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHEN THE LAW'S GONE, WE USE THE PINE CONES!
BUT THET'S A DEATH SENTENCE! YOU SAID SO!
SO? SHOULD WE FORGET THE GOLD?

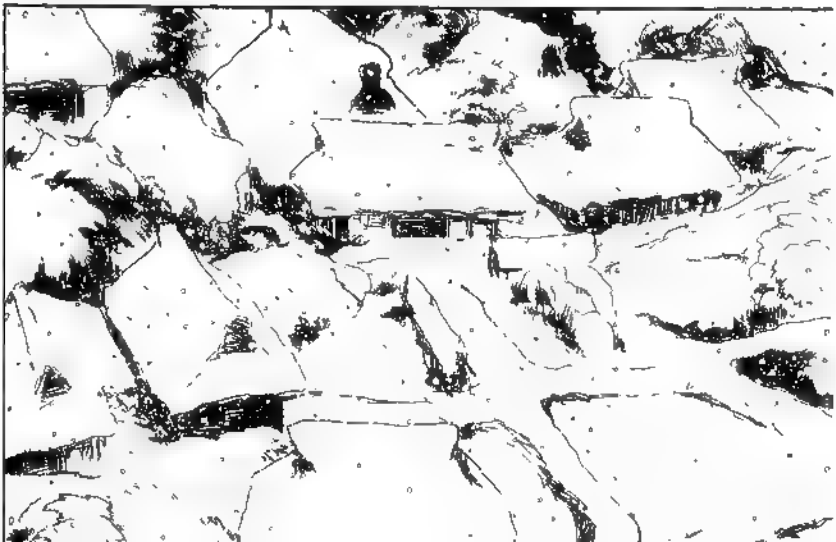
IF WE KEEP OUR STORY STRAIGHT THEY'LL NEVER KNOW.
RIGHT! NOW GO HOME AND WAIT!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF LONE WOLF AND CUB.
GO! GO! HURRY!

A WORD WITH YOU, GOOD SIR ?
WE. WE KNOW THE AUTHORITIES *HUNT* YOU. THERE ARE POSTERS *EVERYWHERE*.
YET PLEASE FOLLOW US WE CAN *HIDE* YOU
WHY?
YOU'RE A *LUCKY MAN*, SIR HERE IN TŌGŌ
WE HAVE AN UNBREAKABLE RITUAL, FROM *CENTURIES* PAST. WE GIVE THE FIRST *MOCHI* OF THE YEAR.

..TO OUR FIRST VISITOR OF THE YEAR BLESSING OF THE MOCHI, WE CALL IT. IF THE VISITOR WON'T EAT IT, OUR NEXT YEAR'S CROPS WILL FAIL. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HELPING.
PLEASE, SIR— I BEG YOU. A SHORT WHILE ONLY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR VILLAGE.
IF YOU WON'T EAT OUR MOCHI AND THERE'S BLOOD SPILLED ON OUR LAND AS WELL WE WOULD BE DOUBLY CURSED!
I BEG YOU, SIR. IT'S FATE. OTHERWISE WE WOULDN'T DARE EVEN DREAM OF CONCEALING A CRIMINAL.
YET THIS CRIMINAL CAN EAT YOUR MOCHI AND BRING YOU GOOD LUCK?
BUT SIR YOU WERE NOT OUR FIRST VISITOR.
YOU PUSHED AHEAD OF YOU AN INNOCENT CHILD.
SUCH A CUTE LITTLE LAD!
PLEASE THIS WAY

AND YOU WON'T HAVE TO KILL ANYONE, EITHER

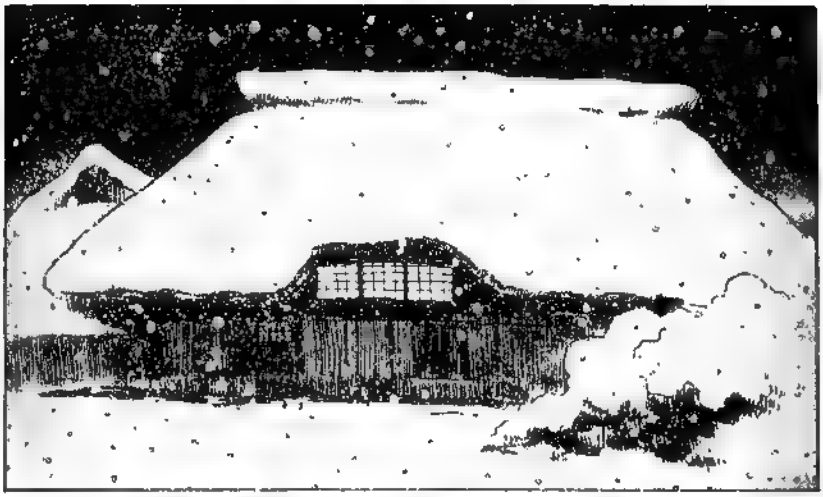

御
御
GO-YŌ



WELCOME, SIR HARD WORK ON A COLD DAY
LONE WOLF AND CUB MUST HAVE PASSED THIS WAY
DID ANYONE FROM YOUR VILLAGE SEE HIM?
WE HAVE POSTED WATCHMEN EVERYWHERE SIR BUT NOTHING.
HMM. IF YOU SPOT HIM, NOT FY ME. IMMEDIATELY!
OF COURSE, OFFICER.

YER SURE 'BOUT THIS ?
THE DIE IS CAST NOW IF THE SNOW WOULD LET UP
GIVE THEM SOME MOCHI REASSURE THEM
AN' IF THE SNOW DON'T QUIT ?
WE WAIT UNTIL THE LAW IS FAR AWAY . AND RAZE THEIR HUT!
NOW— NOT A HINT! UNDERSTAND?!

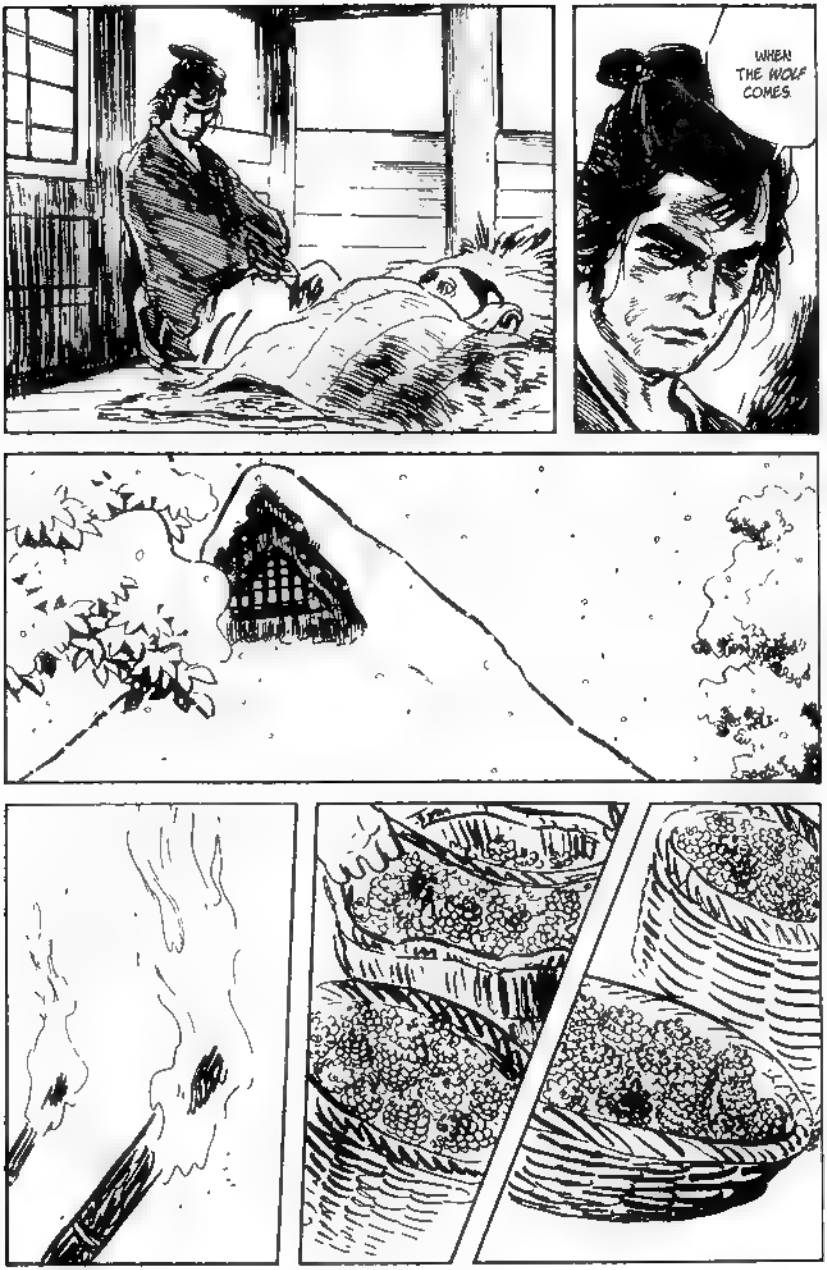
EAT RAH UP, SWEETIE! TH' BLESSED MOCHI'S CHOCK FULL O' GOOD LUCK!
THANK YOU.
TUCK IN!

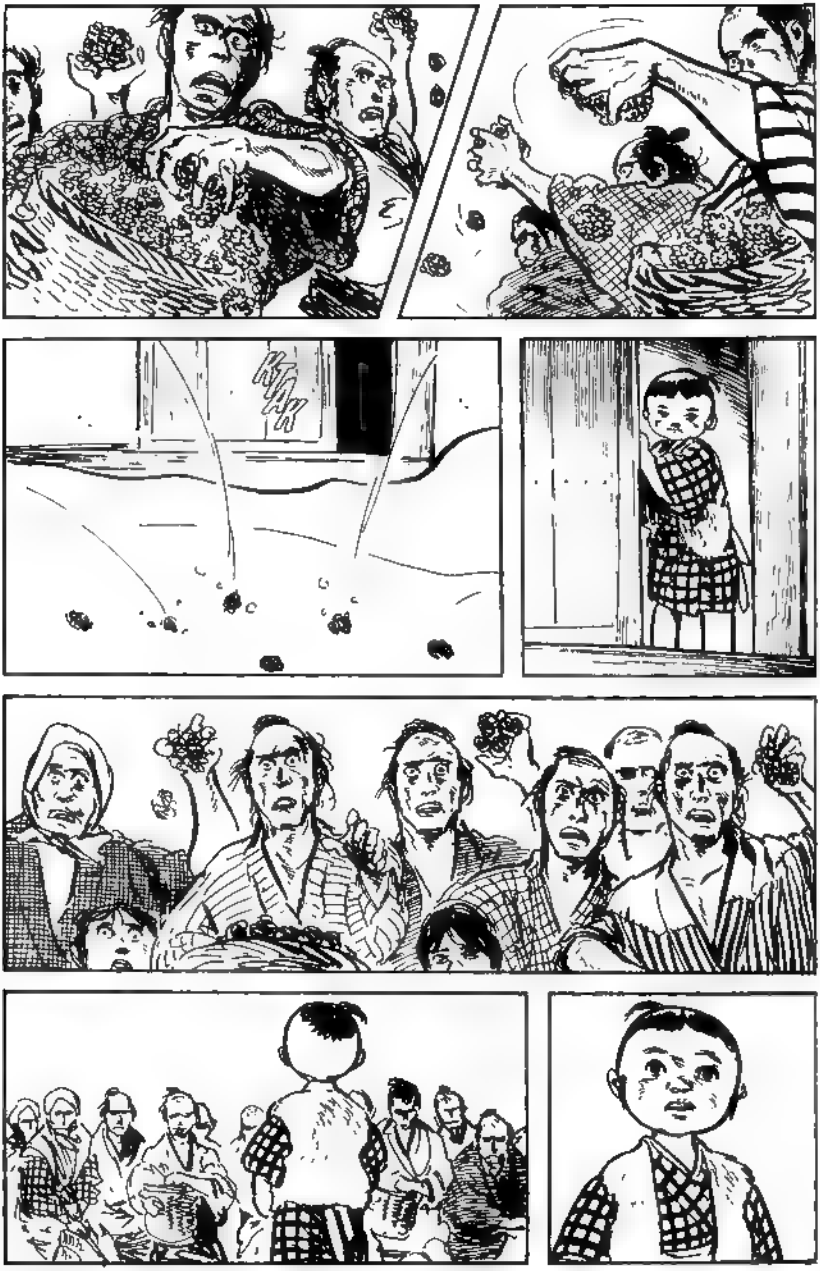


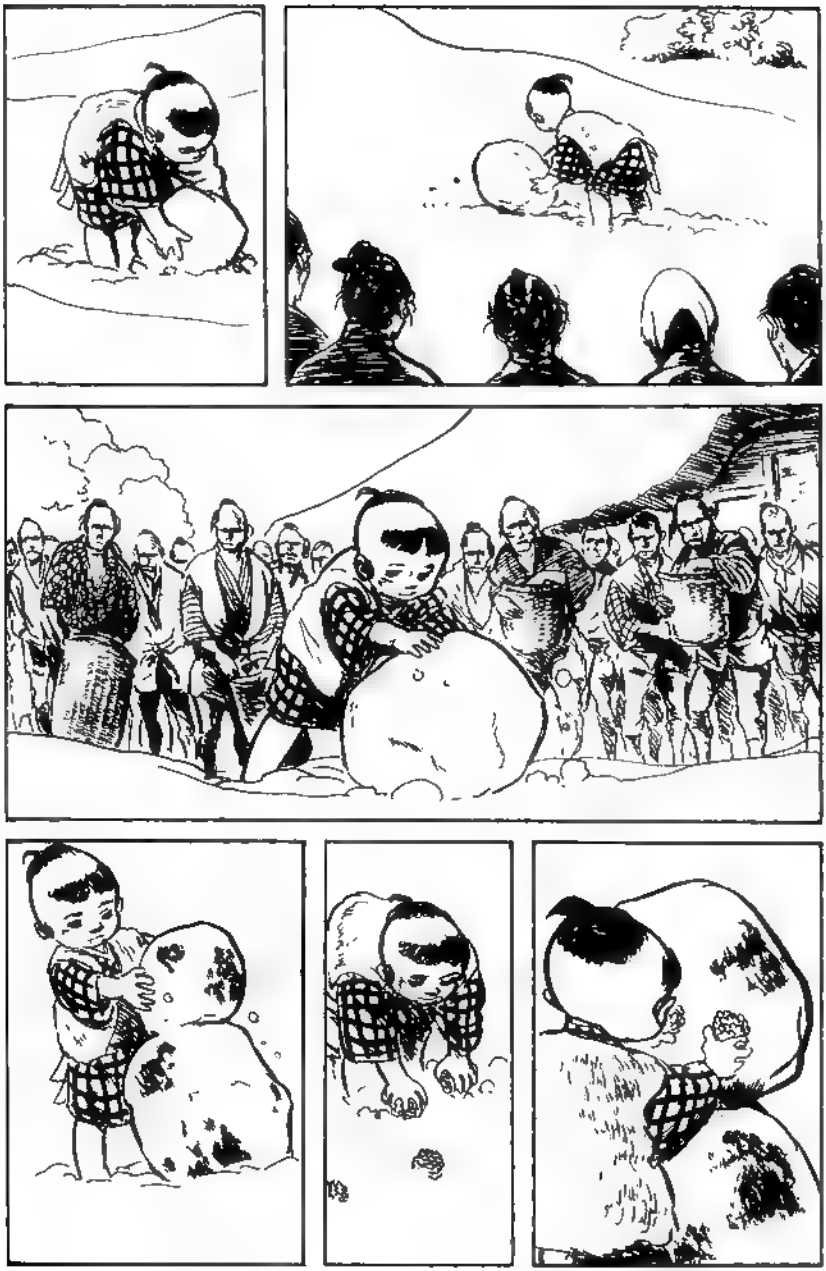
THE JAW'S LONG GONE BY NOW
BUT IT'S STILL SNOWIN'
AN' NO SIGN OF STOPPIN' COULD PILE UP FER DAYS, IT COULD

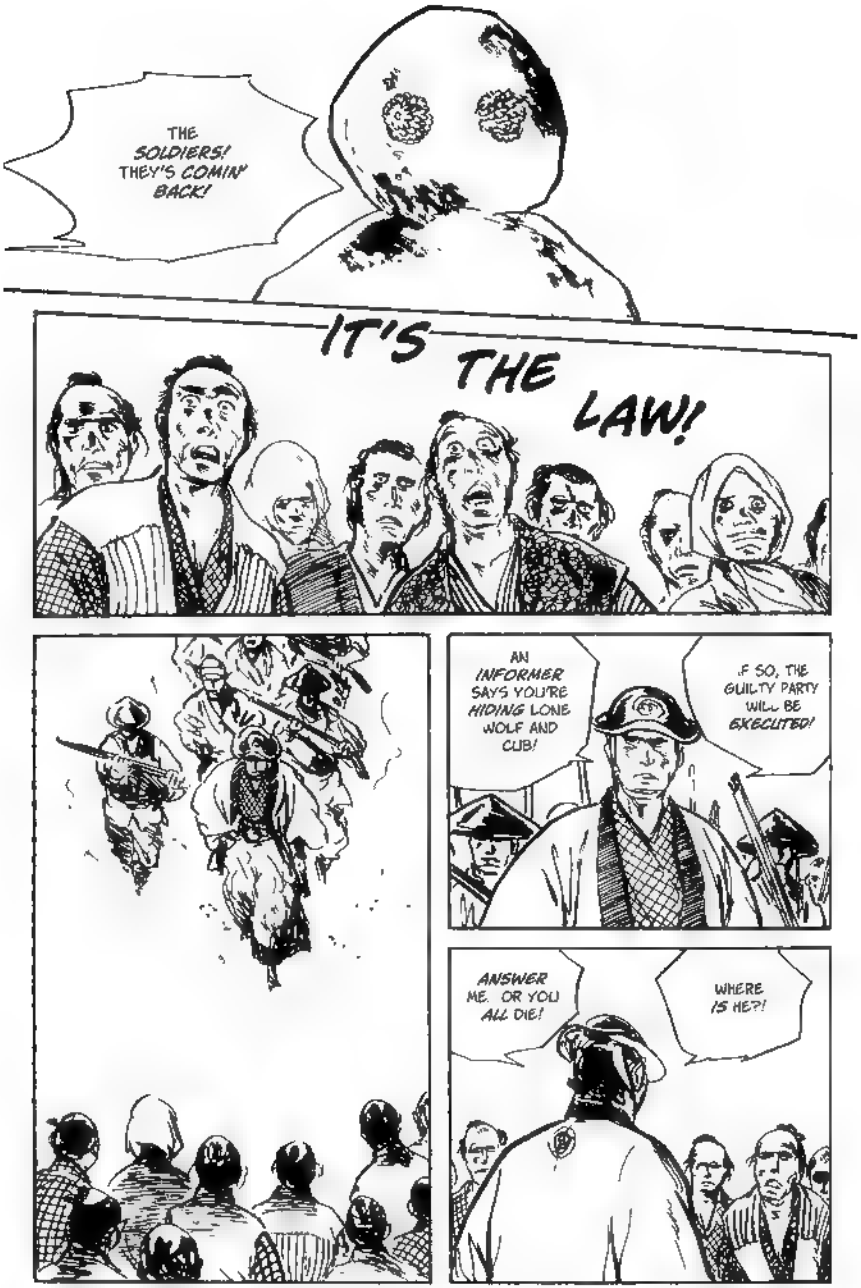
WE CAN'T WAIT WHO KNOWS WHEN THEY'LL BE BACK?
RIGHT THEN. WE DO IT AT DAWN

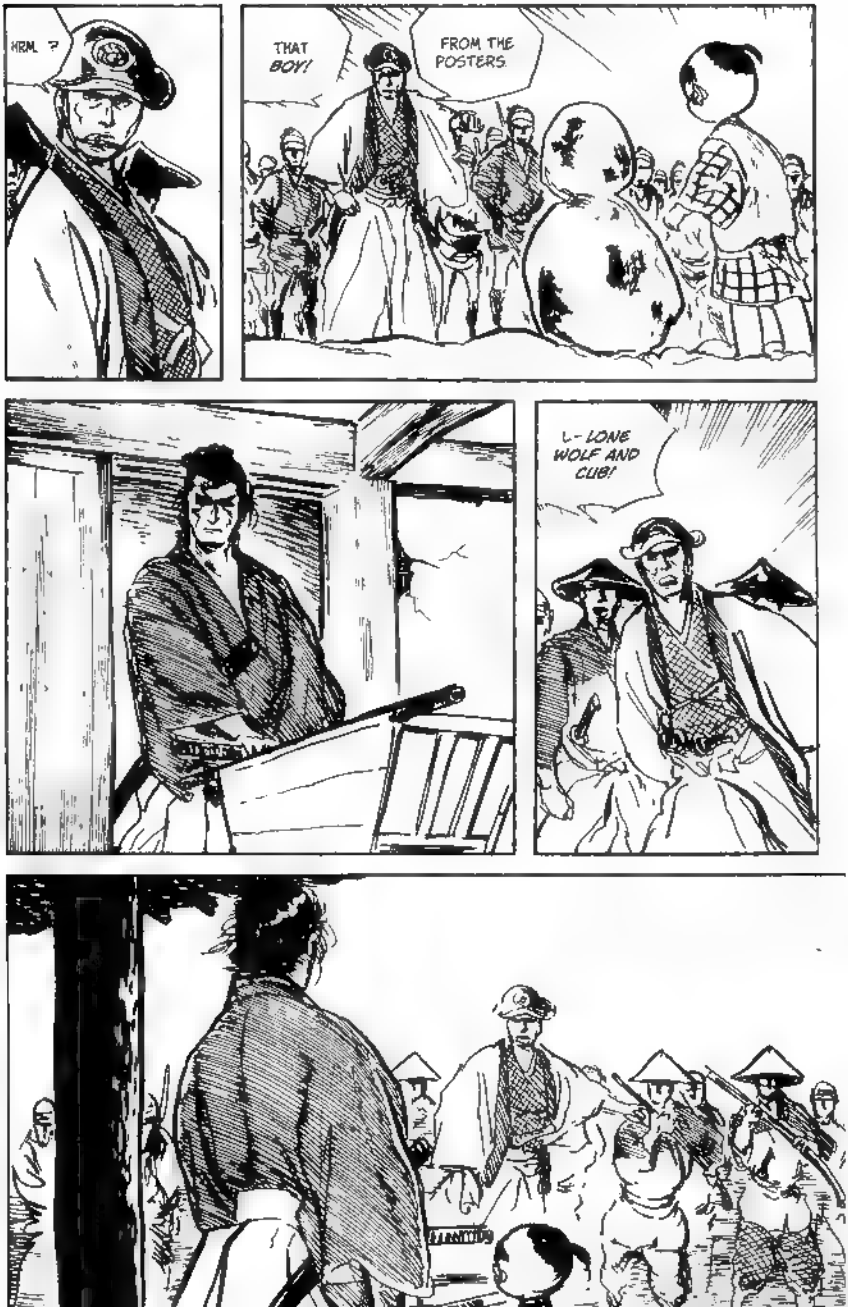
USE THE PINE CONES, AND BURN DOWN THE HUT
A LITTLE SNOW WON'T STOP A PINE CONE FIRE TELL YOUR PEOPLE!


WHEN THE WOLF COMES






THE SOLDIERS! THEY'S COMIN' BACK!
IT'S THE LAW!
AN INFORMER SAYS YOU'RE HIDING LONE WOLF AND CUB!
IF SO, THE GUILTY PARTY WILL BE EXECUTED!
ANSWER ME. OR YOU ALL DIE!
WHERE IS HE?!


HRM. ?
THAT BOY!
FROM THE POSTERS
L- LONE WOLF AND CUB!

FIRE!
BKOOM
AH—!
AIEE!

K-KILL HIM!
KILL HIM!!
GHRK!
CHUDD
NGYAHH!
SKUSH
RYAA!

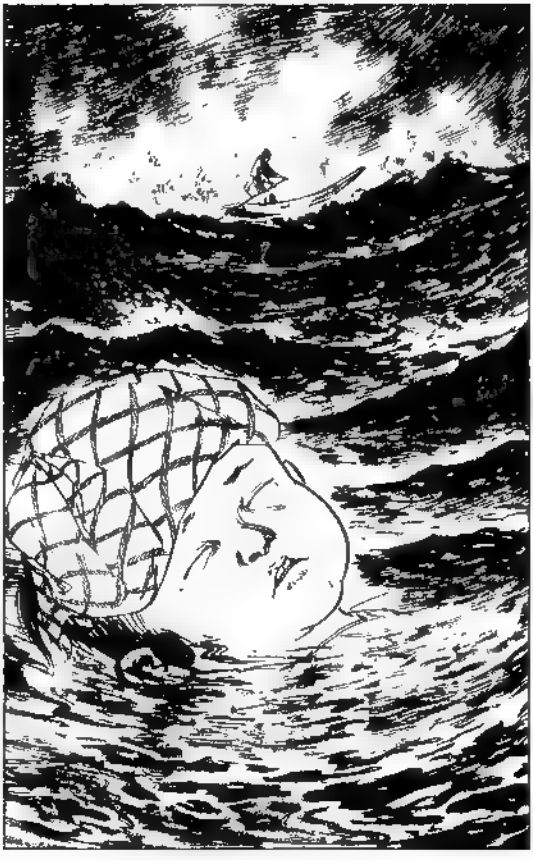
AAAAHH!!

FORGIVE US. WE *STAINED* YOUR CELEBRATIONS WITH *BLOOD*. FATHER AND SON. WE ARE NOT *HUMAN*
PLEASE ASK ANOTHER TRAVELER TO EAT YOUR *MOCHI*

#MangaProject on irc.Dal.net
Lone Wolf and Cub

the eighty-seventh

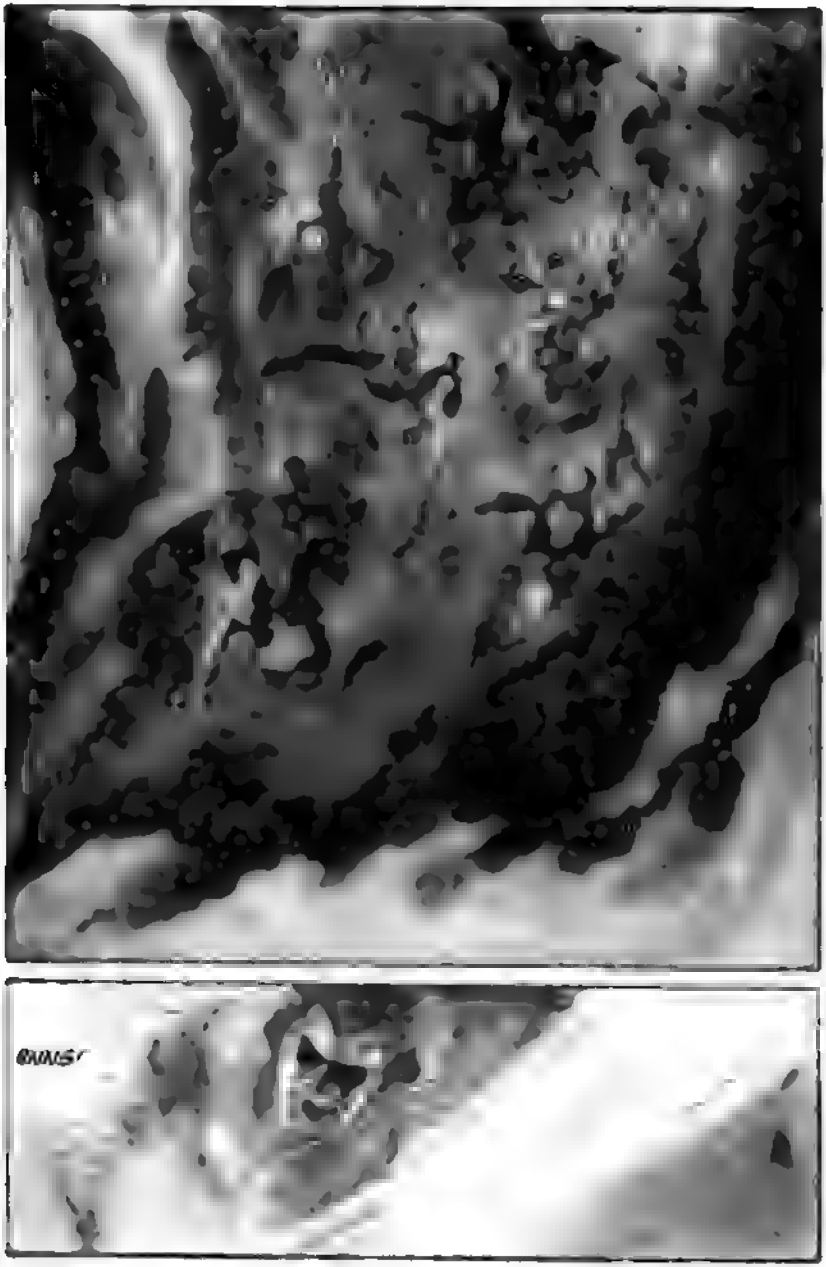
Life in Death

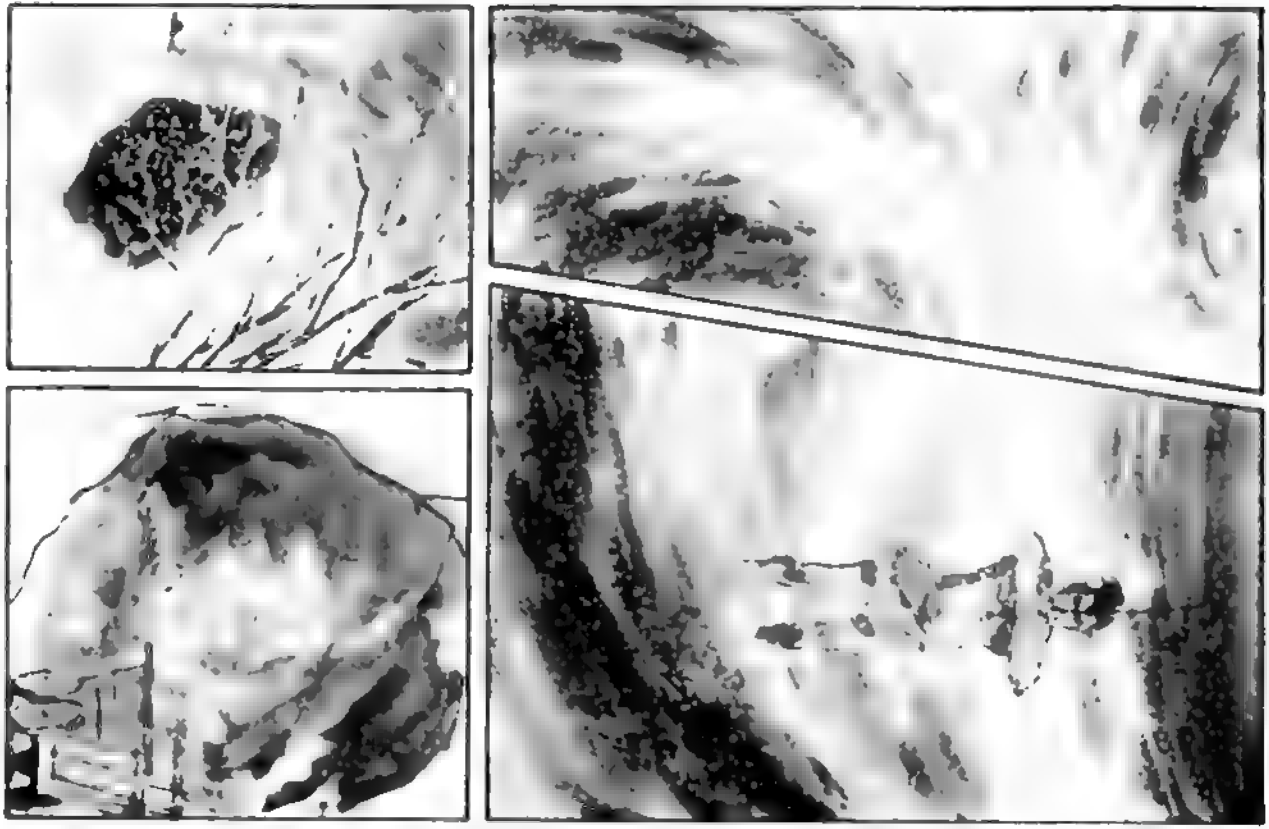


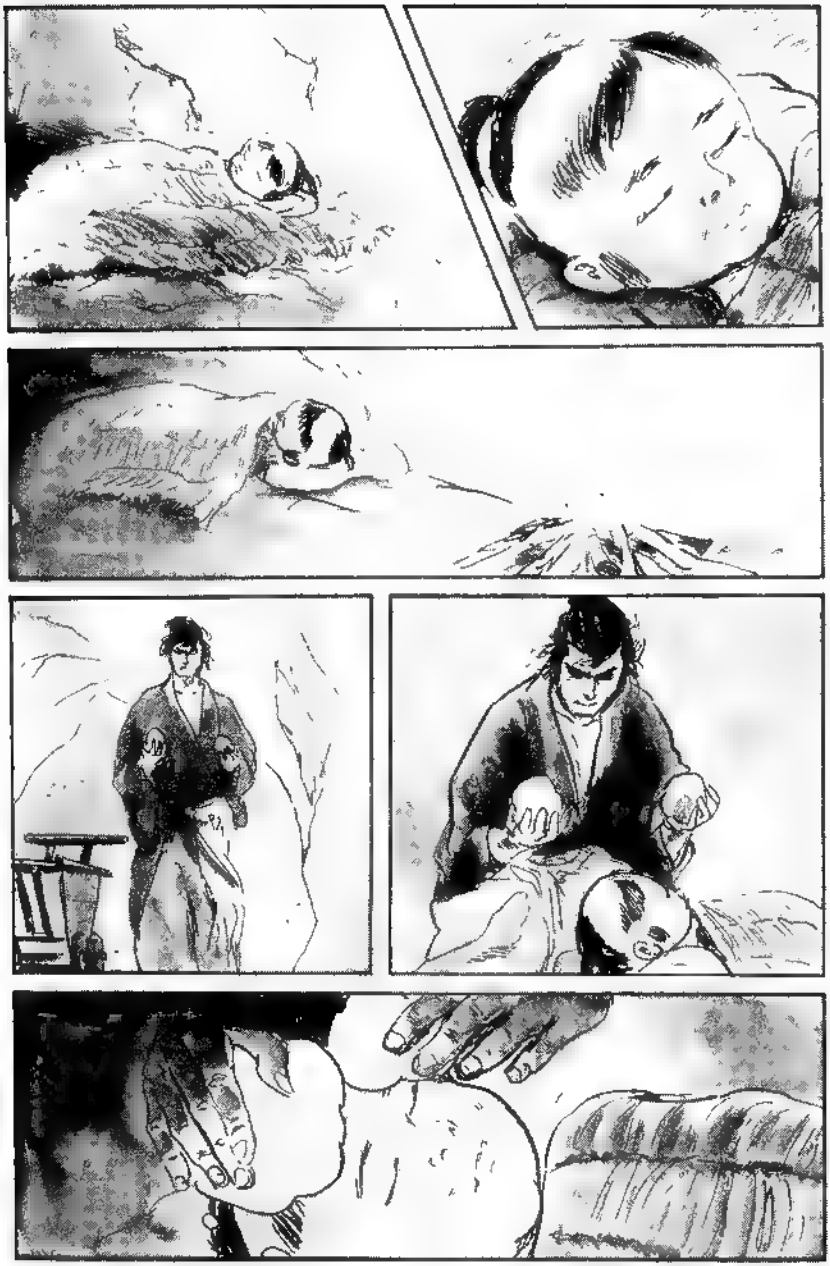
WHHSSHHH
WHOOSHH
WHHSSHH
FSSHHHH

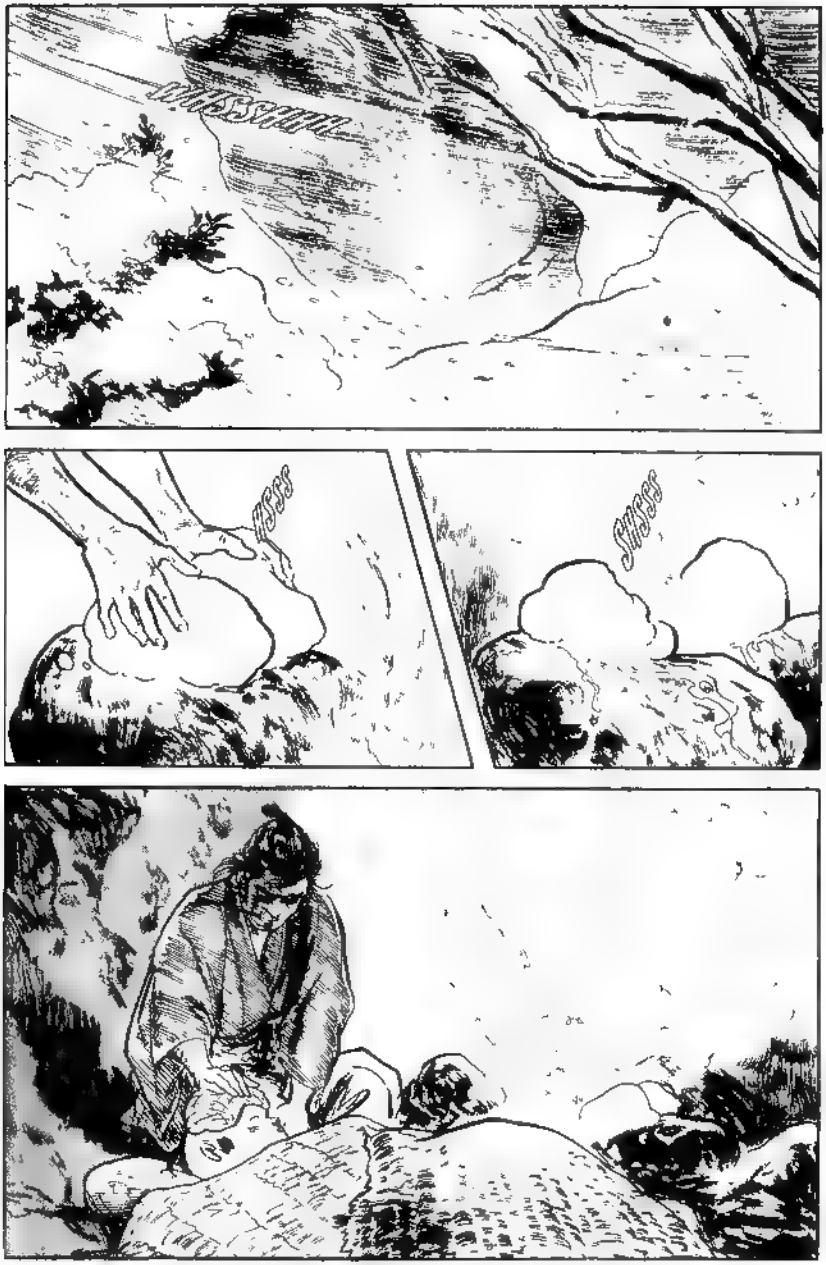
HRG!
RYAA!!
HYAA!!

YE OX- AND HORSE-HEADED
THAT DAWN WHEN I ACHIEVE OUR *QUEST*, I OFFER *MYSELF* WITHOUT REGRET! JUST KINDLE THE FIRES OF DAIGORO'S


BANG!






WHOOSH
SSSS
SSSSS

Whoosh
PAPA

HIS CHILD
WAS AILING
FEVERISH.
WEAKENING
FAST
MALNUTRITION.
ILLNESS.
EXHAUSTION.
ALL OVERLAID

AND NOW, THE THREAT OF PNEUMONIA
WHHSSHHH
FATHER AND SON HAD SOUGHT REFUGE HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS, A BRIEF RESPITE FROM PURSUIT, FROM THE HUNT..
BWOOO

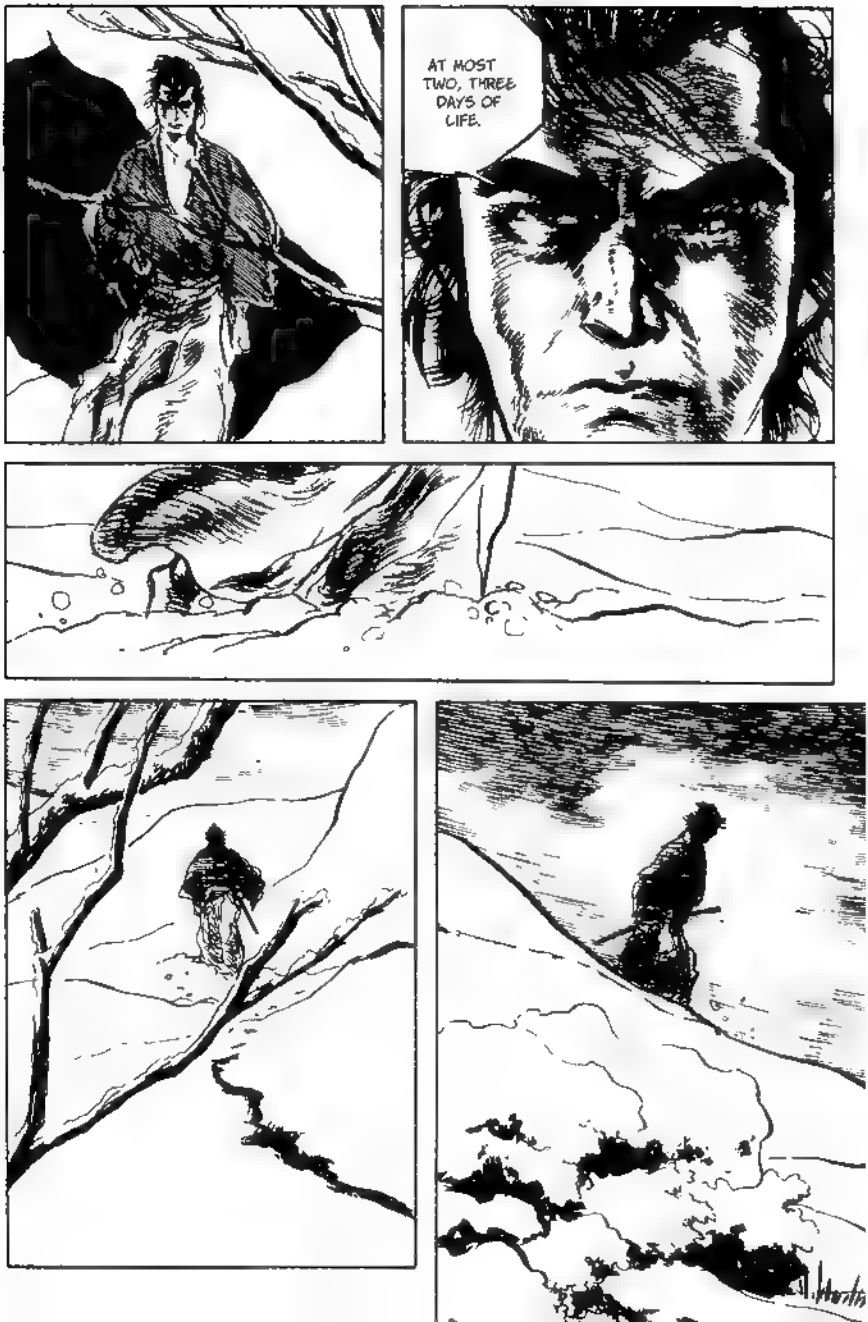
FOR NOW, ALL THINGS WERE THE ENEMY
PEASANTS AND TOWN PEOPLE ALIKE, EVEN CHILDREN RAN CRAZED AFTER THE GIANT BOUNTY
SSSS
IF THEY ADVANCED AS BEFORE, HE WOULD HAVE TO TURN HIS SWORD ON THEM AS WELL.
HAHH
HAHH

HAAH.
HAAH.
HFF
DAIGORO
HE WAS A
WOLF CHILD
RAISED WILD
AND YET
SUCK

FWHTT

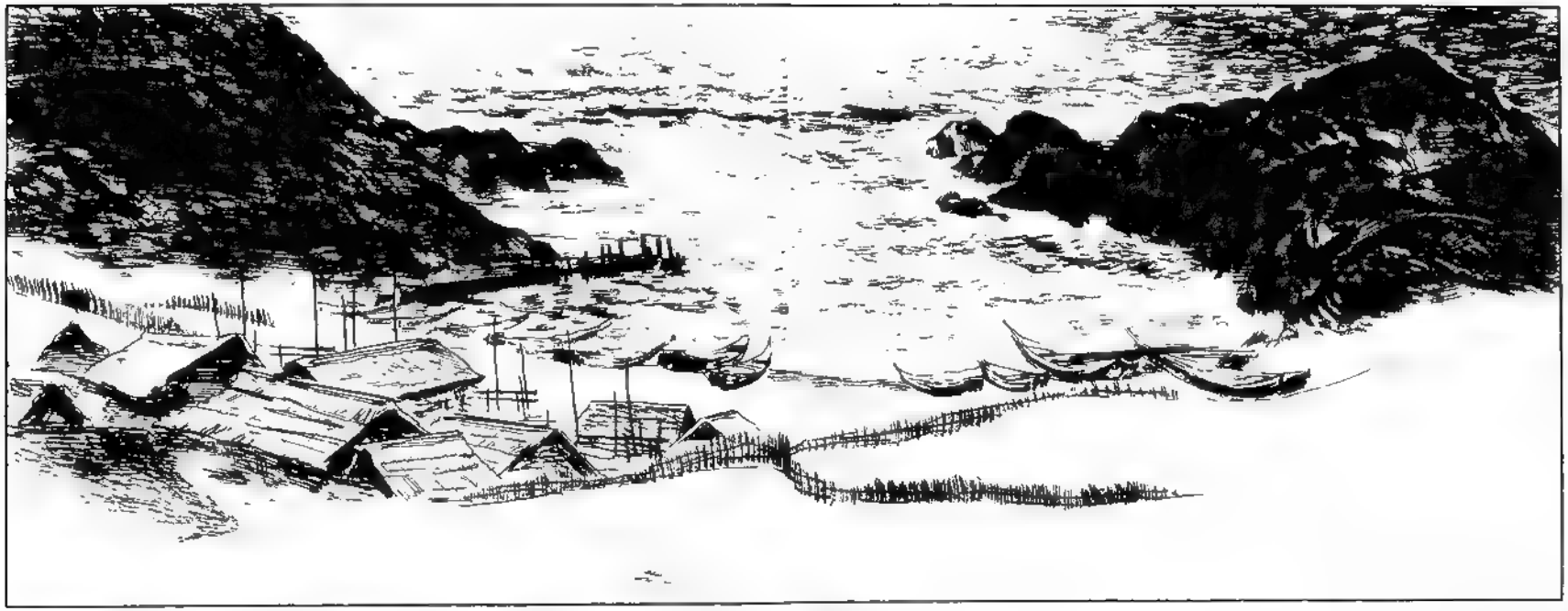
DAIGORO. IF YOU DON'T EAT YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE PAPA, AND GO TO A FAR PLACE ALL ALONE.
TELL ME. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

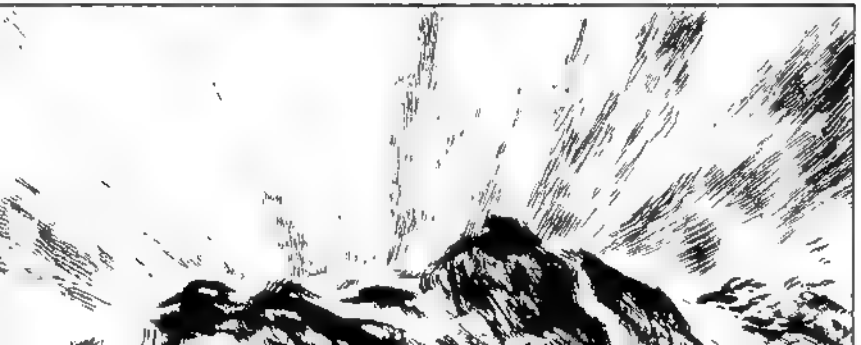
MI...
.....
A MIKAN ORANGE?!
THEN WAIT


AT MOST TWO, THREE DAYS OF LIFE.

MIKAN? ARE YE CRAZY, SIR? AIN'T NONE T' BE HAD 'ROUND HERE THIS TIME O' YEAR!

DOWN NIKAMA WAY, SOME SHIPS FROM THE SOUTH PUT IN. SO, JES' MAYBE
MY THANKS.
NOT EVEN A CLOAK AGAINST THE SNOW
AN' HE WANTS MIKANP THET'S ONE STRANGE RŌNIN
DAMN, AIN'T HE COLD?

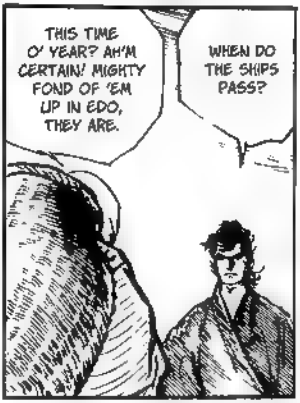


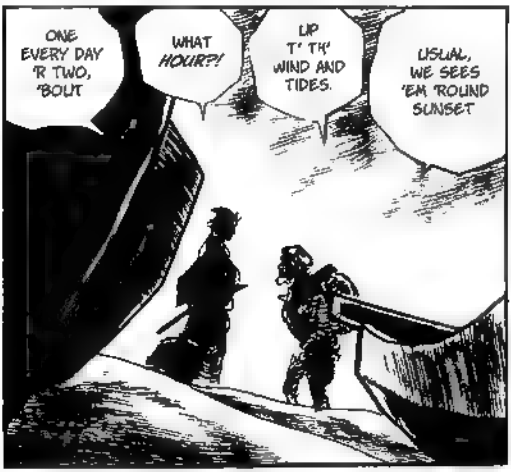


NOT ON YER *LIFE*, SIR!
CAIN'T GET *MIKAN* HERE NO HOW

WHY? DON'T THE SHIPS STOP?

NAW! IN OUR LI'L COVE? NO, SIR! THE TŌKA. PACKET HEADS STRAIGHT UP T' EDO. THOUGH. .
WHEN THE *GALES* BLOW UP, THEY MIGHT NIP BEHIND THE *BREAKWATER*...
ARE THERE ANY *MIKAN* ON THE PACKETS OFFSHORE?


THIS TIME O' YEAR? AH'M CERTAIN! MIGHTY FOND OF 'EM UP IN EDO, THEY ARE.
WHEN DO THE SHIPS PASS?

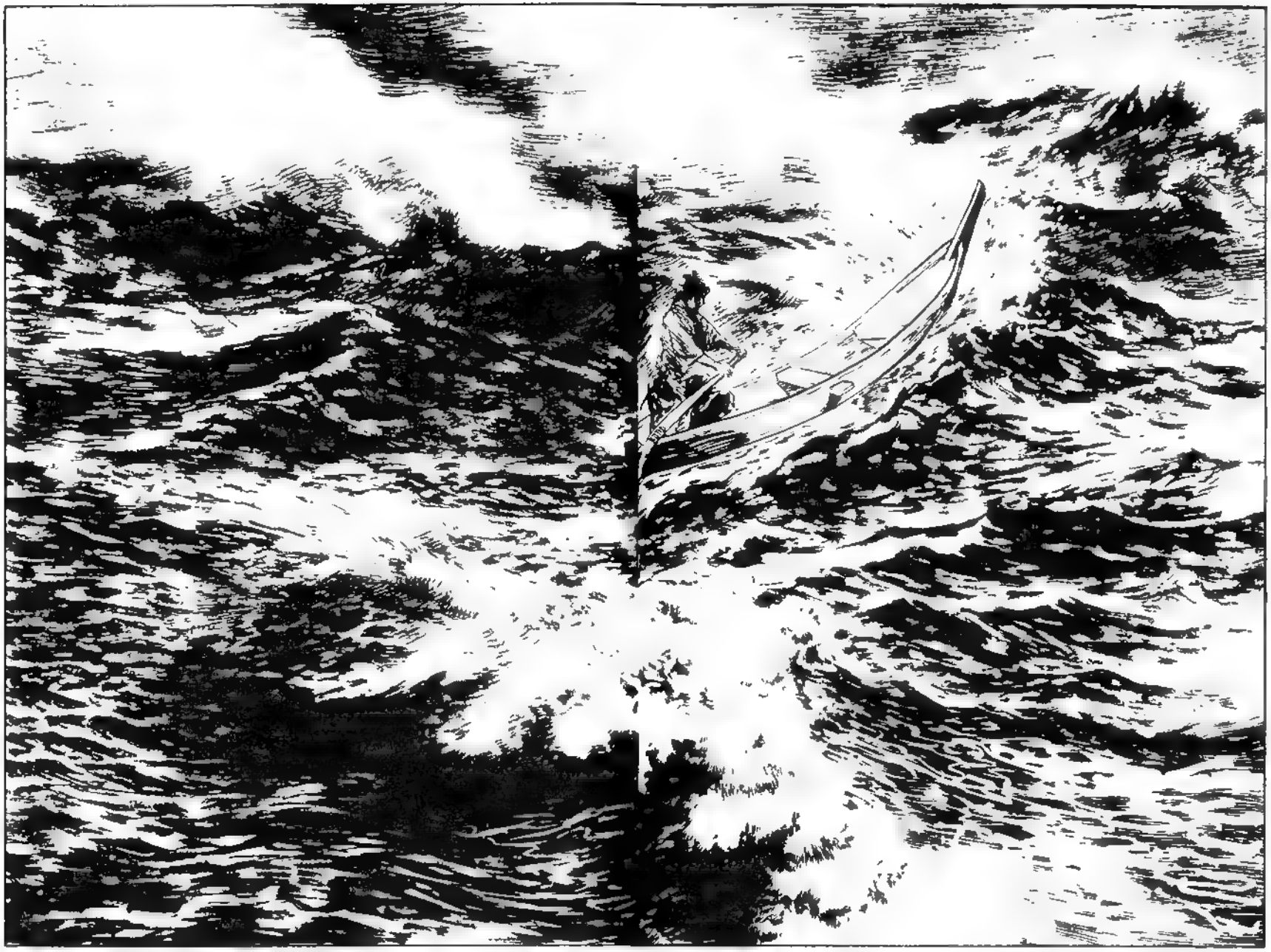

ONE EVERY DAY 'R TWO, 'BOUT
WHAT *HOUR*?!
UP T' TH' WIND AND TIDES.
USUAL, WE SEES 'EM 'ROUND SUNSET

WHERE CAN I RENT A BOAT?

LORDY! YE WANT A MIKAN THET MUCH?!
MY SON IS ILL.
HE WON'T EAT HE ONLY WANTS MIKAN
OH. YOUR BOY, IS IT?
THEN I KIN UNNERSTAND, SIR POOR THING!
I'LL LEND YE MY BOAT HAPPY TO. BUT.
YER REALLY GONNA WAIT OUT THERE IN THIS COLD AND SWELL?
SO I INTEND
BUT EVEN SUPPOSIN' YE DON'T FREEZE, WHAT IF THEY DON'T STOP? YE CAIN'T OVERHAUL 'EM IN A SKIFF
IF THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE. THEN.

DAMN. I UNNERSTAND *WORRYIN'* FER YER *CHILD* BUT I COULDN'T DO IT, NO *SIR*
HE'T'S A REAL *SAMURAI* FER YE.
HUHH ?!

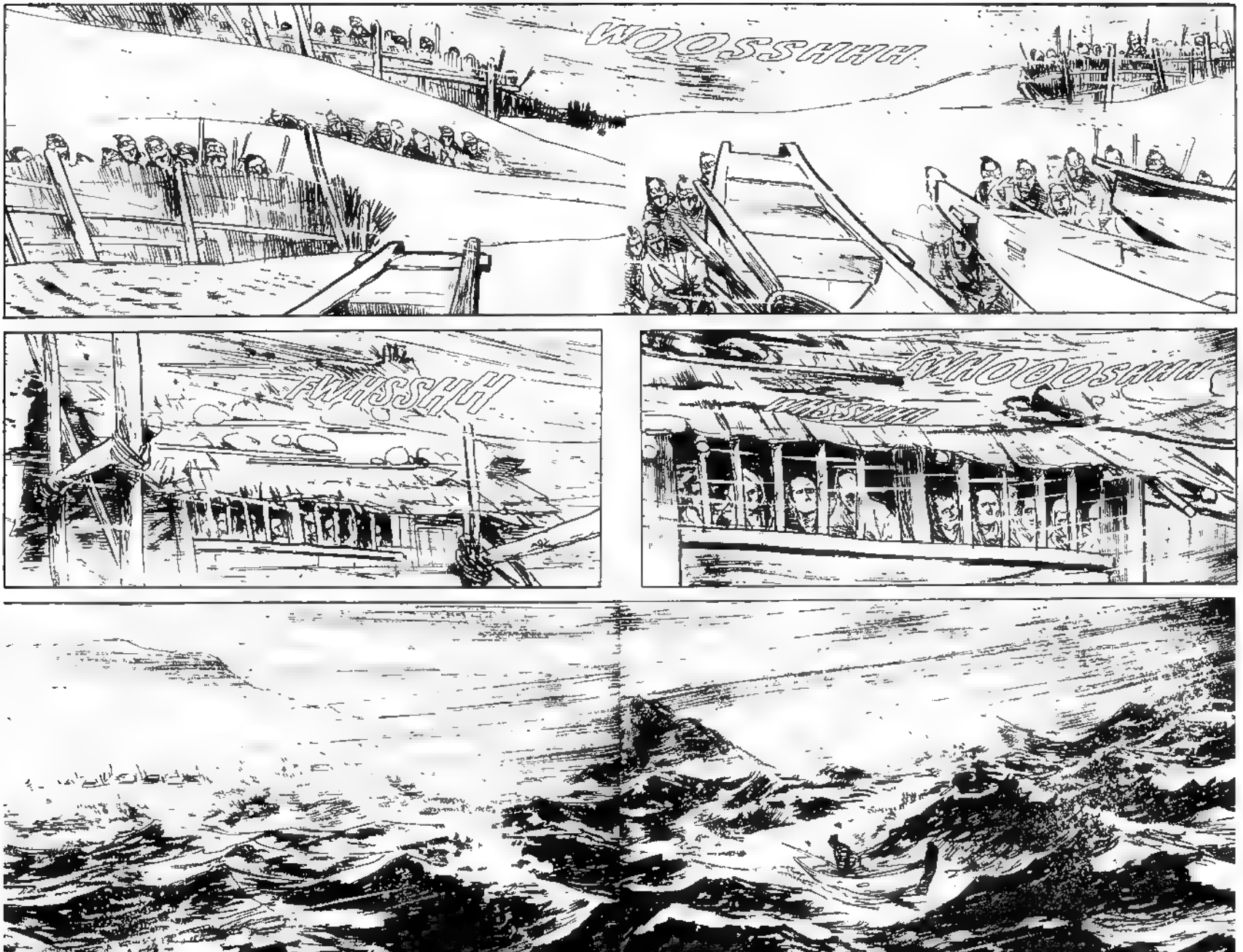
A RÔNIN WITH A KID?! NOT NOT THET FIVE THOUSAND RYÔ ?!
L-L-LONE WOLF AND CUB...!
LORDY, LORDY
FIVE THOUSAN' RYÔ—
-JES' DROPPED FROM TH' SKY!

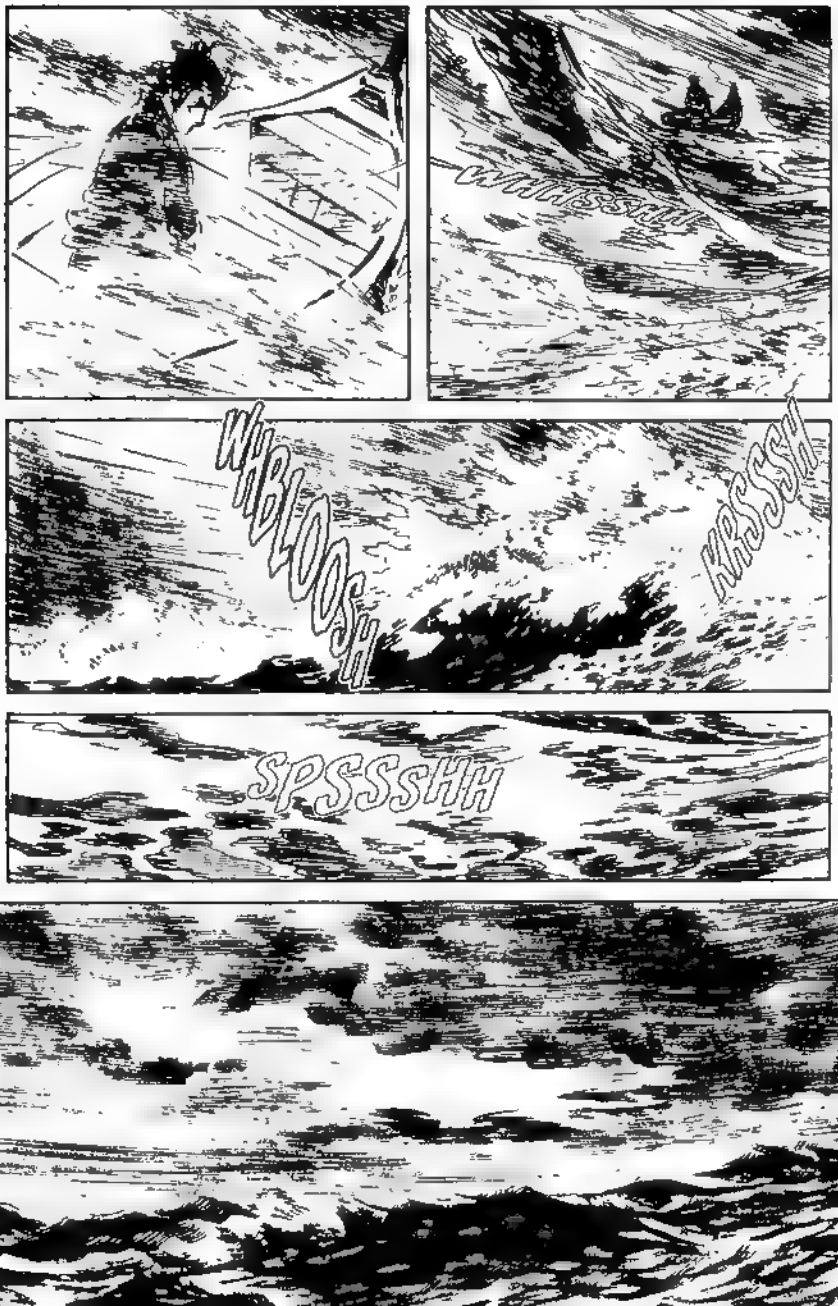


WHOOSHH

KBLOOSH.
SKSSHHH
WHSSSHHH
SPLSSHH
SLSSHH

YEP, THET'S HIM! NO MISTAKE!
SAID HIS BOY'S SICK, WANTS MIKAN! SO HE SCULLED A BOAT RIGHT INTA TH' COVE!
BUT, SIR THEM CLOUDS BE GETTIN' UGLY!
MIKAN? FOR HIS SICK CHILD?
THIS IS TRUE?!
AH KNOW' IT'S PLUMB CRAZY, SIR! BUT HE WAS GONNA WAIT FER THE PACKET 'N' GIT MIKAN!
HONEST, SIR! HOW COULD AN EVER MAKE UP SECH A STORY?
A GALE'S COMIN' ON, FER CERTAIN. BAD ONE!
HE'S RIGHT I WOULDN'T TAKE 'EM OUT NOW, SIR.
IF IT'S LONE WOLF, HE JUST MIGHT DO SOMETHING SO EXTRAORDINARY
LAUNCH THE BOATS!
THEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE. WE'LL WAIT HERE, IN AMBUSH.
IF HE LEFT HIS BOY BEHIND HE'LL BE BACK.
SPREAD OUT ALONG THE COAST AND GET UNDER COVER!


WOOSSHHH
FWHSSHH
WHSSHH


WHOOSSHH
WHBLOOSH
KRSSSH
SPSSSHH

SPLASH

WHHSSHHHH
BRRR! DAMN!
NNG BRR!
THIS COLD CUTS LIKE A KNIFE! IT'S INTOLERABLE!
WE'D BETTER MOVE INSIDE, SIR
MM...
MY GOD. TO ROW OUT ONTO A FREEZING OCEAN, WAITING FOR A SHIP THAT MIGHT NEVER COME.
HE'S NOT HUMAN!

COME ON, SIR THE NUTS...
RIGHT
WHSSHH
BRRR!
FWHOOOSHH
WHSSHHH
WHOOOSHHH
KSHOOM

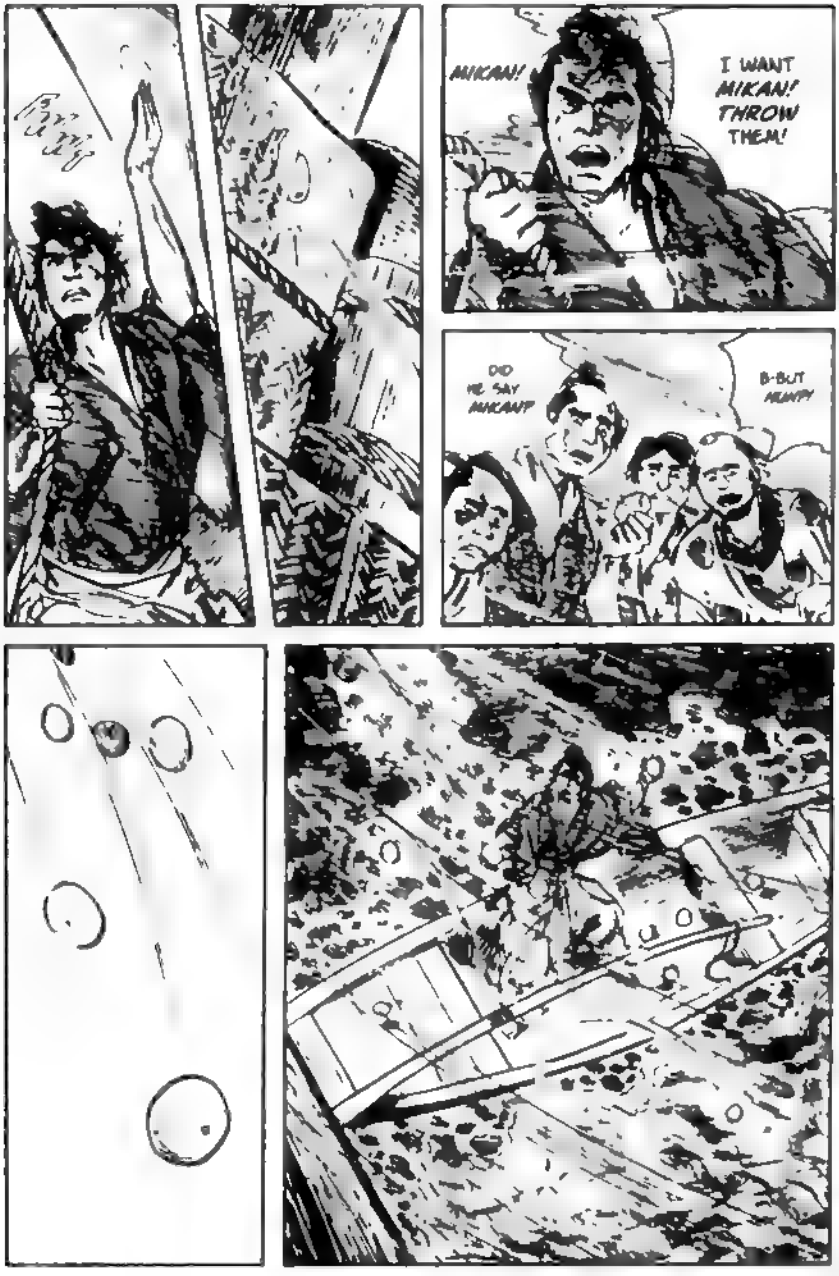
WHISSHH!!
WHISSHH!!
SKRELK
KREEK

FWAP
FWAP
SKREEE
SKREEK
FWHAMM
A SKIFF CAPTAIN! OFF THE STARBOARD BOW!

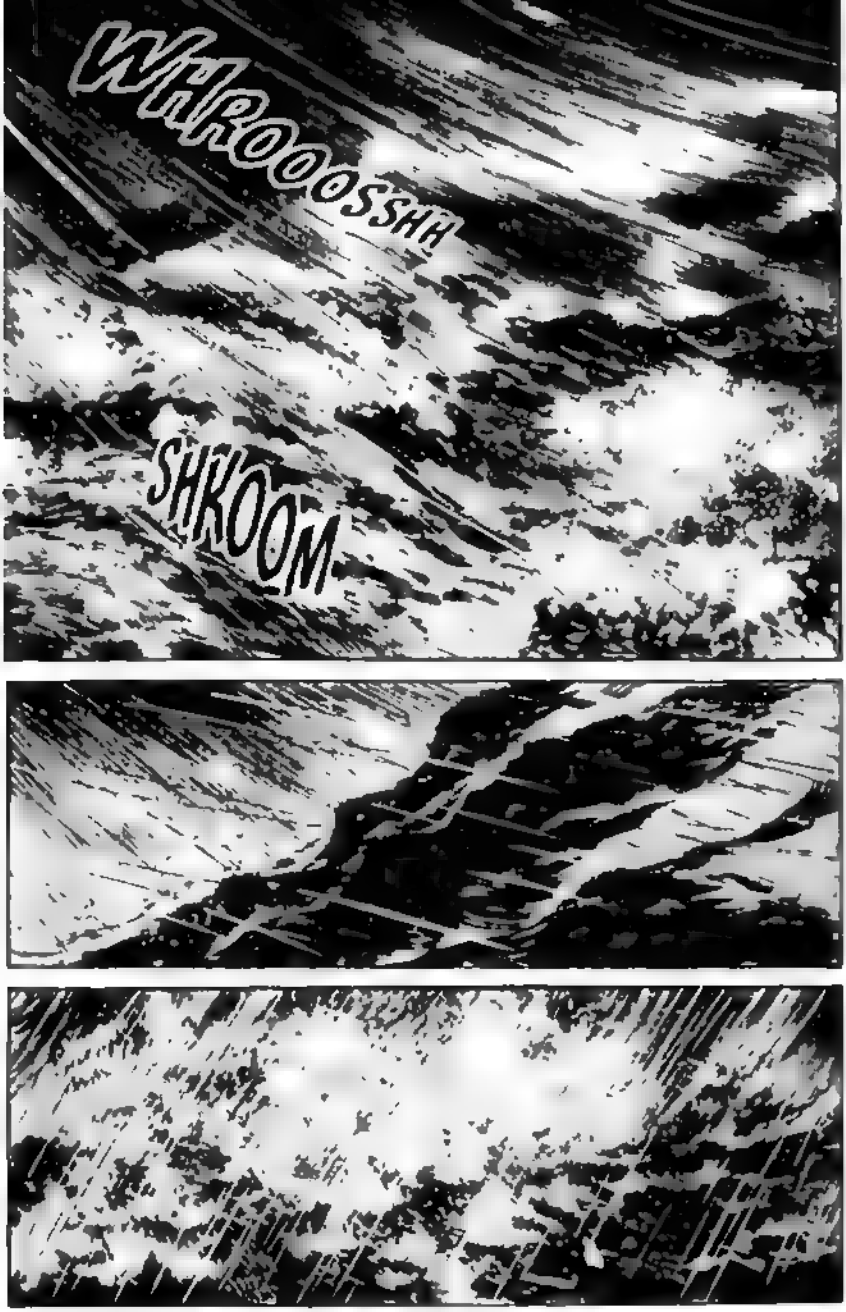
GOOD LORD! RESCUE HIM!
HURRY! THE GALE'S GETTING WORSE!

WHLOOSH

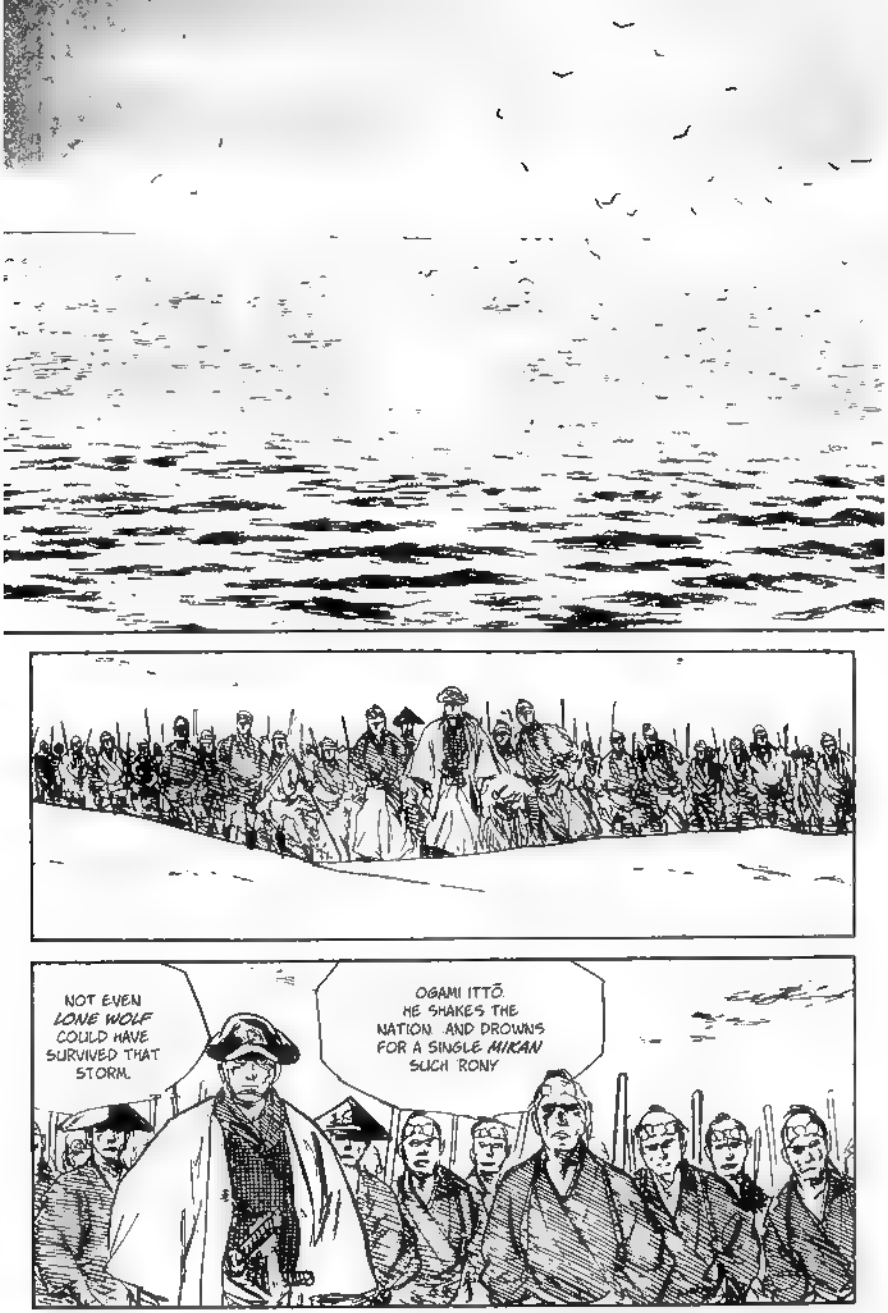
COME ON! IF THE WAVES CATCH YOU BAD, YOU'LL BE SWEPT OVERBOARD!
WHAT'RE YE WAITIN' FOR?! CLIMB ONBOARD!
NO HELP! I'M BUYING MIKAN!
WH- WHAT?!


MIKAN!
I WANT MIKAN! THROW THEM!
DID HE SAY MIKAN?
B-BUT HUNTY

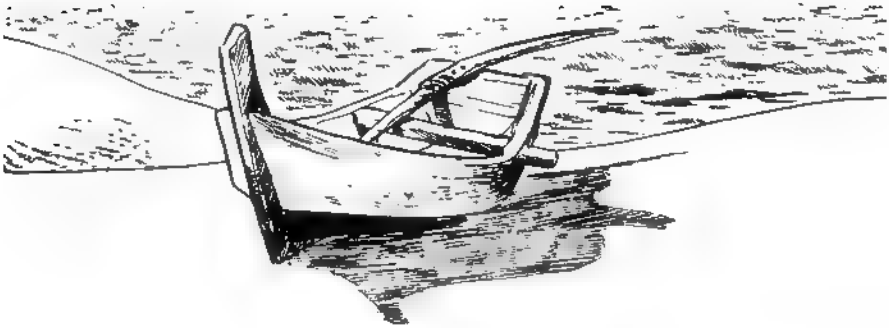
IT'S REAL GOLD, ALL RIGHT!
D-DAMN!
HERE COMES THE PEAK O' TH' GALE!
REEF THE SAIL! HURRY!!

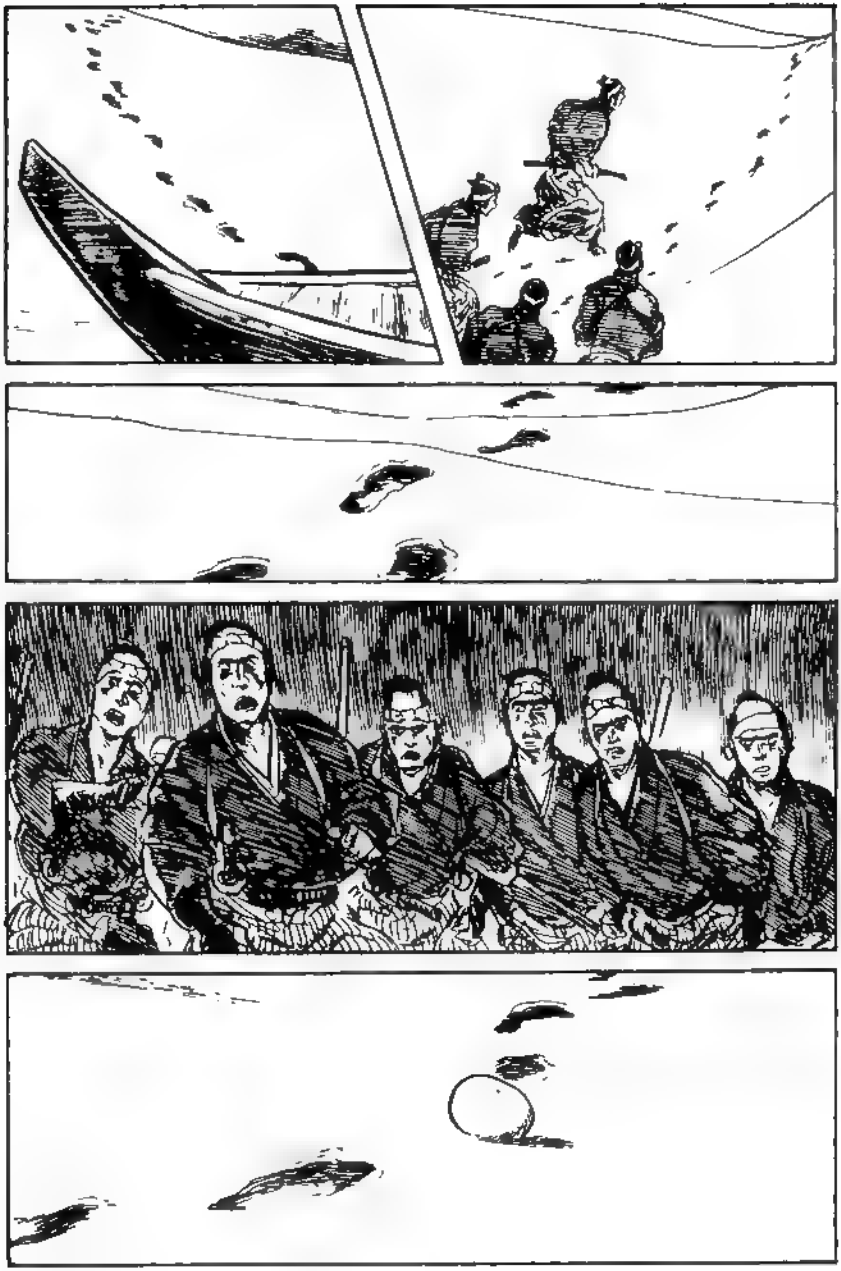

WHOOOSSHH
SHKOOM

WHBLOOOSHH
FWHOOSHH
WHOOSHH
SKSSHH


NOT EVEN LONE WOLF COULD HAVE SURVIVED THAT STORM.
OGAMI ITTŌ. HE SHAKES THE NATION AND DROWNS FOR A SINGLE MIKAN SUCH IRONY

HIS BODY MAY HAVE WASHED ASHORE.
SEARCH FOR IT!



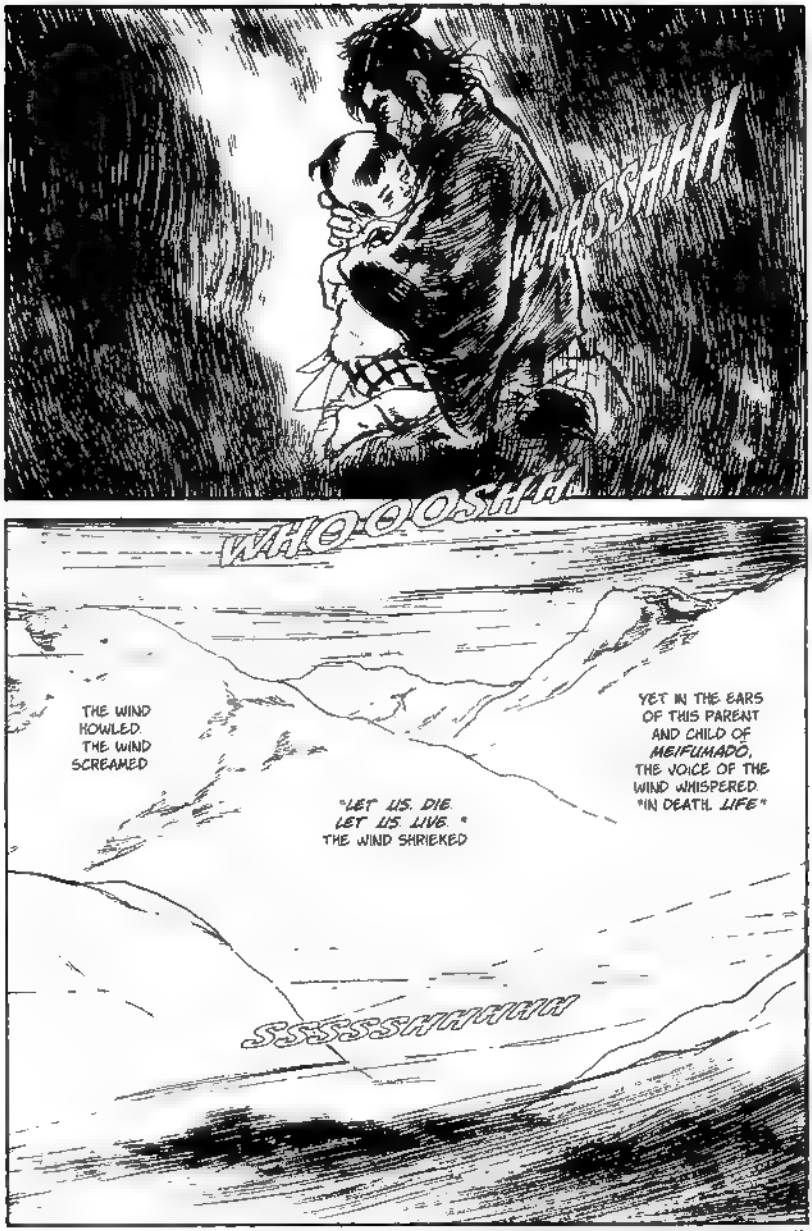


DAIGOROHH!
DAIGOROHH!

DAI-
GORO!

SEE, DAIGORO? HERE ARE YOUR MIKAN...

PAPAHHHH!!
PAPAHHHH!!
DAIGORO
.?
PAPA!


WHHSHHH
WHOOOSH...
THE WIND HOWLED. THE WIND SCREAMED
"LET US. DIE. LET US. LIVE." THE WIND SHRIEKED
YET IN THE EARS OF THIS PARENT AND CHILD OF MEIFUHADÔ, THE VOICE OF THE WIND WHISPERED. "IN DEATH. LIFE"
SSSSSSHHHHHH

LONE WOLF AND CUB BOOK SEVENTEEN: THE END
TO BE CONTINUED

GLOSSARY

bushi
A samurai. A member of the warrior class.

bushidō
The way of the warrior. Also shortened to *shidō*.

bōhachi, kutsuwa
The Japanese *yakuza* specialize in different underworld activities, from gambling and protection scams to prostitution. *Bohachi* and *kutsuwa* were Edo-period terms for *yakuza* dealing in organized prostitution.

daikan
An official who collected taxes owed to Edo and oversaw public works, agriculture, and other projects administered by the central government.

daikansho
The office of the *daikan*.

danna
Term of respect among commoners for a great man. It may also mean "husband."

daimyō
A feudal lord.

dotanuki
A battle sword. Literally, "sword that cuts through torsos."

Edo
The capital of medieval Japan and the seat of the shōgunate. The site of modern-day Tokyo.

go-yō
Official business. As a lantern carried by the officers of the *daikan* magistrate, the equivalent of today's national police, or as the shout of the police apprehending a criminal, "*go-yō*" was one of the most dreaded words in the world of Edo Japan's criminal elements.

gozumezu
The horse- and ox-headed demons of *meifumado*.

han
A feudal domain.

honorifics
Japan is a class and status society, and proper forms of address are critical. Common markers of respect are the prefixes *o* and *go*, and a wide range of suffixes. Some of the suffixes you will encounter in *Lone Wolf and Cub*:
chan – for children, young women, and close friends.
dono – archaic, used for higher ranked or highly respected figures.
san – the most common, used among equals or near-equals.
sama – used for superiors.
sensei – used for teachers, masters, respected entertainers, and politicians.

kamasu
A pouch set for carrying the long *kiseru* pipe and finely cut *kizami* tobacco.

kōgi kaishakunin
The shōgun's own second, who performed executions ordered by the shōgun

koku
A bale of rice. The traditional measure of a *han*'s wealth, a measure of its agricultural land and productivity

measurements
bu – approximately 3 millimeters
sun – approximately 3 centimeters
shaku – ten *sun*, approximately 30 centimeters
ri – approximately 4 kilometers (2.5 miles)

meifumadō
The Buddhist Hell. The way of demons and damnation

mochi
A sticky rice cake, a traditional food at New Year's, made by pounding sweet rice with mallets

motojime
A gangland boss. Literally, "the one who holds all together."

rōnin
A masterless samurai. Literally, "one adrift on the waves." Members of the samurai caste who have lost their masters through the dissolution of *han*, expulsion for misbehavior, or other reasons. Prohibited from working as farmers or merchants under the strict Confucian caste system imposed by the Tokugawa shogunate, many impoverished *ronin* became "hired guns" for whom the code of the samurai was nothing but empty words.

ryō
A gold piece, worth 60 silver pieces

ryū
Often translated as "school." The many variations of swordsmanship and other martial arts were passed down from generation to generation to the offspring of the originator of the technique or set of techniques, and to any *deishi* students that sought to learn from the master. The largest schools had their own *dōjo* training centers and scores of students. An effective swordsman had to study the different techniques of the various schools to know how to block them in combat. Many *ryu* also had a set of special, secret techniques that were only taught to school initiates.

sekisho
Checkpoint regulating travel from Edo to other parts of the country. All travelers had to submit papers at official checkpoints along the main highways in and out of Edo.

ukiyo
The floating world. Life in all its transitory nature. To the *bohachi* (*yakuza*), the world outside their syndicates.

yakuza
Japan's criminal syndicates. In the Edo period, *yakuza* were a common part of the landscape, running houses of gambling and prostitution. As long as they did not overstep their bounds, they were tolerated by the authorities, a tradition little changed in modern Japan.

zanbatō
The mythical horse slicing stroke used by Ōgami Ittō.

王通水浪

KAZUO KOIKE

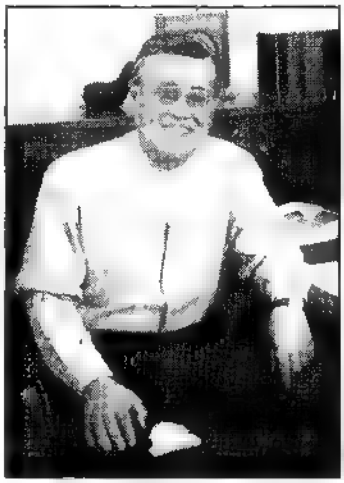
Though widely respected as a powerful writer of graphic fiction, Kazuo Koike has spent a lifetime reaching beyond the bounds of the comics medium. Aside from co-creating and writing the successful *Lone Wolf and Cub* and *Crying Freeman* manga, Koike has hosted television programs; founded a golf magazine, produced movies, written popular fiction, poetry, and screenplays, and mentored some of Japan's best manga talent.

Lone Wolf and Cub was first serialized in Japan in 1970 (under the title *Kozure Okami*) in *Manga Action* magazine and continued its hugely popular run for many years, being collected as the stories were published, and reprinted worldwide. Koike collected numerous awards for his work on the series throughout the next decade. Starting in 1972, Koike adapted the popular manga into a series of six films, the *Baby Cart Assassin* saga, garnering widespread commercial success and critical acclaim for his screenwriting.

This wasn't Koike's only foray into film and video. In 1996, *Crying Freeman*, the manga Koike created with artist Ryoichi Ikegami, was produced in Hollywood and released to commercial success in Europe and is currently awaiting release in America.

And to give something back to the medium that gave him so much, Koike started the *Gekiga Sonjuku*, a college course aimed at helping talented writers and artists — such as *Ranma 1/2* creator Rumiko Takahashi — break into the comics field.

The driving focus of Koike's narrative is character development, and his commitment to character is clear. "Comics are carried by characters. If a character is well created, the comic becomes a hit." Kazuo Koike's continued success in comics and literature has proven this philosophy true.



GOSEKI KOJIMA

Goseki Kojima was born on November 3, 1928, the very same day as the godfather of Japanese comics, Osamu Tezuka. While just out of junior high school, the self-taught Kojima began painting advertising posters for movie theaters to pay his bills.

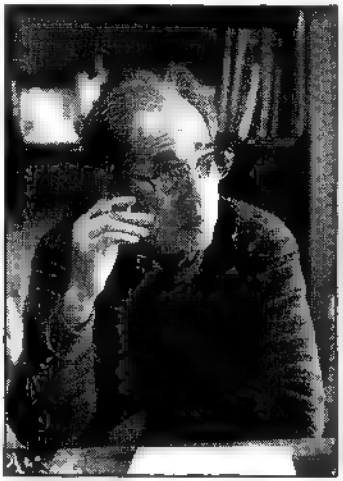
In 1950, Kojima moved to Tokyo, where the postwar devastation had given rise to special manga forms for audiences too poor to buy the new manga magazines. Kojima created art for *kami-shibai*, or "paper-play" narrators, who would use manga story sheets to present narrated street plays. Kojima moved on to creating works for the *kashi-hon* market, bookstores that rented out books, magazines, and manga to mostly low income readers. He soon became highly popular among *kashi-hon* readers.

In 1967, Kojima broke into the magazine market with his series *Dojinki*. As the manga magazine market grew and diversified, he turned out a steady stream of popular series.

In 1970, in collaboration with Kazuo Koike, Kojima began the work that would seal his reputation, *Kozure Okami* (*Lone Wolf and Cub*). Before long the story had become a gigantic hit, eventually spinning off a television series, six motion pictures, and even theme song records. Koike and Kojima were soon dubbed the "golden duo" and produced success after success on their way to the pinnacle of the manga world.

When *Manga Japan* magazine was launched in 1994, Kojima was asked to serve as consultant, and he helped train the next generation of manga artists.

In his final years, Kojima turned to creating original graphic novels based on the movies of his favorite director, Akira Kurosawa. Kojima passed away on January 5, 2000 at the age of 71.



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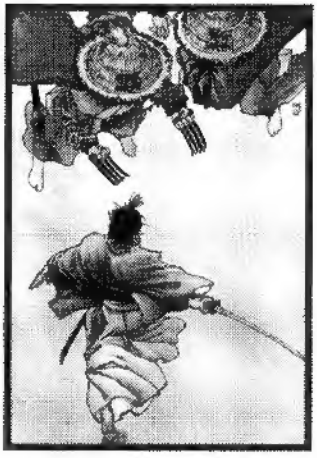

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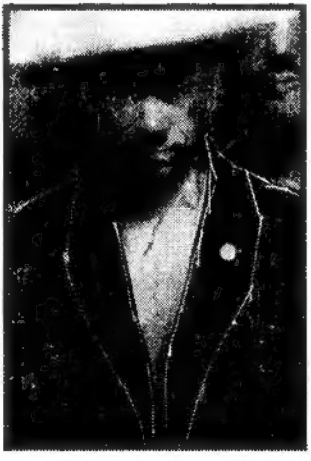

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